



**SERVICE ORDER**  
**Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> January**  
**First Sunday After Epiphany**  
**Baptism of Our Lord**



**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**Lord, in your mercy  
listen to the prayers of your people who call on you.  
Help us to see what we ought to do,  
and give us the strength to do it.  
We ask this through your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen**

**OPENING SENTENCE: MATTHEW 3:17**

*A voice from heaven said,  
“this is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”*

**A voice from heaven said,  
“this is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”**

**INVOCATION**

*In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.*

**BLESSED JESUS, AT THY WORD**

**Blessed Jesus, at Your word We have come again to hear You;  
Let our thoughts and hearts be stirred And in glowing faith be near You;  
By Thy gospel true and holy Teach us, Lord, to love You solely.**

**All our knowledge, sense, and sight Lie in deepest darkness shrouded,  
Till Your Spirit breaks our night Filling us with light unclouded;  
All good thought and all good living come but by Your gracious giving.**

**Glorious Lord, Yourself impart; Light of light from God proceeding,  
Touch our lips and ears and heart, Help us by Your Spirit's pleading;  
Hear the cry Thy Church now raises, Hear, and bless our prayers and  
praises.**

Catherine Winkworth

### **CONFESSION**

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,  
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all  
my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You  
and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my  
sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of  
Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His  
only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who  
believe in His name He has given the right to become children of God, and has  
given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved.  
Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.*

### **PSALM 29**

<sup>1</sup> *Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.*

<sup>2</sup> *Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to his name;  
worship the LORD in the splendour of his<sup>[a]</sup> holiness.*

**May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

*<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.*

*<sup>4</sup> The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic.*

*<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;  
the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.*

*<sup>6</sup> He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion<sup>[b]</sup> like a young wild ox.*

*<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning.*

*<sup>8</sup> The voice of the LORD shakes the desert;  
the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh.*

*<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD twists the oaks<sup>[c]</sup>  
and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'*

**May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

*<sup>10</sup> The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;  
the LORD is enthroned as King for ever.*

*<sup>11</sup> The LORD gives strength to his people;  
the LORD blesses his people with peace.*

**May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

**Glory to the Father and the Son  
and the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be forever.**

**Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Let us pray that we live as God's baptised children.*

[silence]

*Loving Father,  
you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit,  
and revealed him as your dear Son.*

*Thank you for making us your children by water and the Spirit.*

*Keep us faithful to you throughout our lives.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**Amen.**

## **BIBLE READING**

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 42:1-9 The Lord's servant is a light to the nations (NIVUK)

42 'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. 2 He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. 3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; 4 he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.' 5 This is what God the LORD says – the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: 6 'I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, 7 to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. 8 'I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols. 9 See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.'

*After the reading*

*This is the Word of the LORD.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING:** Acts 10:34-43 Jesus anointed with the Spirit and power (NIVUK)

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. <sup>36</sup> You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. <sup>39</sup> 'We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a

cross, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. <sup>41</sup> He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

*After the reading*  
*This is the Word of the LORD.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUIA VERSE**

*Alleluia!*  
**Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
*A voice from heaven said,*  
*'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'* *Alleluia.*  
**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17** The baptism of Jesus (NIVUK)

*Before the reading*  
**Glory be to You, O LORD.**

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?' <sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.' Then John consented. <sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'

*After the reading*  
*This is the gospel of the LORD.*  
**Praise be to You, O Christ.**

*Thank you, Lord Jesus,*

*for revealing yourself at your baptism as God's dear Son.  
Fill us, your baptised children, with your Spirit.*

**Amen.**

### **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

### **THE SERVANT KING**

**From heaven You came, helpless babe, entered our world,  
Your glory veiled; not to be served but to serve,  
and give Your life that we might live.**

**This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.**

**There in the garden of tears my heavy load He chose to bear. His heart with sorrow was torn, 'Yet not My will, but Yours', He said.**

**This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.**

**Come, see His hands and His feet, the scars that speak of sacrifice, hands that flung stars into space to cruel nails surrendered.**

**This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him  
to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.**

**So let us learn how to serve, and in our lives enthrone Him;  
each other's needs to prefer, for it is Christ we're serving.**

**This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him  
to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.**

### **SERMON**

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon,  
or Read and Discuss the Sermon

For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))

The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.

For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

### **SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE**

**Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to you we raise;  
you were shown by heaven's star to the wise men from afar;  
branch of royal David's stem in your birth at Bethlehem:  
songs of praise to you alone, God in human form made known.**

**You were shown at Jordan's stream, prophet, priest, and king supreme;  
in your Godhead you were shown, at the wedding feast made known;  
you were shown in power divine, changing water into wine:  
songs of praise to you alone, God in human form made known.**

**You were shown in making whole crippled limbs and troubled soul;  
you were shown in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;  
you were shown in gracious will, always bringing good from ill:  
songs of praise to you alone, God in human form made known.**

**Sun and moon will darkened be, stars will fall, the heavens will flee;  
Christ will then like lightning shine, all will see his glorious sign,  
all will then the trumpet hear, all will see the judge appear:  
then to all will you be shown, God in human form made known.**

**Grant us grace to see you, Lord, mirrored in your holy word;  
grant that we may be like you, pure, as you are pure and true;  
may we then your glory see at your great epiphany,  
praise and worship you alone, God in human form made known.**

Christopher Wordsworth

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

*Gracious God, we thank you for Jesus  
and for being made your own children.  
Teach us to live as your precious people,  
filled with your Holy Spirit,  
doing what you want us to do.  
**Amen.***

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

God does not show favouritism, but accepts people from every nation who fear him and do what is right. Let us pray for the people of the world.

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your goodness, and especially for the gift of your dear Son, through whom you have revealed your will and grace. Plant your word in us and help us to keep it in our hearts. Remove our pride and grant that we may walk humbly before you.

Gracious Lord: **hear the prayers of your people.**

Protect and strengthen your church, so that your word and sacraments may nurture faith in you and love to all people. Be with all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world. Bless our seminary and schools of the church, so that they may send out people to serve you by proclaiming your word, by helping others, and by doing your will in their daily lives. Let the light of your word continue to shine in our homes. Keep the children who have been baptised in this church in the last year in the grace of their baptism, and help all who care for them to bring them up to trust and obey you.

Gracious Lord: **hear the prayers of your people.**



Bless all those in government and positions of authority. Direct our PM (*insert name*), our Premier (*insert name*), and their advisers, and guide the parliaments of our commonwealth and state. Help them to govern wisely and justly, so that people may be restrained from wrongdoing and encouraged to live good lives. Forgive those who have fallen away from you, and lead them to return to you. Bless the nations of the world, humble the proud and lift up the needy, so that your name may be glorious in all the earth.

Gracious Lord: **hear the prayers of your people.**

Let your blessing rest on agriculture, commerce, and industry. Bless our arts and culture, our rest and leisure. Support all who strive to do your will in their daily vocation, and assure them that you are pleased with their work.

Gracious Lord: **hear the prayers of your people.**

We place in your care all who are in trouble. Remember those in need, those who are sick, those who are disabled and especially those who suffer because they bear your name. Comfort them with your Holy Spirit, so that in their distress they may accept your fatherly will and rejoice in your saving help.

Gracious Lord: **hear the prayers of your people.**

Protect us from all physical harm and spiritual danger. Support us in our last hour with your mercy, and finally take us into your eternal joy, to love and serve you with your saints and angels forever.

Gracious Lord: **hear the prayers of your people.**

Father, you have formed your holy church to be the bride of Christ. Grant to your church the faith and the peace we need to do your will and to bring glory to you. We ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

*Let us bless the LORD.*

**God be praised forevermore.**

*The LORD bless us and keep us.*

*The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.*

*The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.*

**Amen!**

## GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

*May the Spirit make you strong  
and bless you with peace.*

**May the Spirit make you strong  
and bless you with peace.**

## WORDS OF SENDING

*Go in peace.*

*Live as new people, the baptised children of God.*

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## LORD, DISMISS US WITH THY BLESSING

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace  
Let us each, Thy love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us, Travelling through this wilderness

Thanks we give and adoration For thy gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of Thy salvation In our hearts and lives abound:  
May Thy presence May Thy presence, With us evermore be found.

So, whene'er the signal's given Us from earth to call away,  
Borne on angels' wings to heaven, Glad the summons to obey,  
May we, ready May we, ready, Rise and reign in endless day.

John Fawcett

## HYMNS AND SONGS

### **First reading: Isaiah 42:1-9**

#### **LHS**

- 45 Hail, Thou source of every blessing\* G4
- 232 Rise, Thou light of gentile nations G4
- 789 My Lord, you wore no royal crown G8

#### **AT**

- 261 The Servant King
- 441 Jesus was sent
- 446 Mercy
- 450 When Jesus Christ worked here on earth

### **Second reading: Acts 10:34-43**

#### **LHS**

- 47 Songs of thankfulness and praise\* G4
- 791 O love how deep, how broad, how high G5

#### **AT**

- 344 The new road
- 441 Jesus was sent

## **Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17**

### **LHS**

47 Songs of thankfulness and praise\* G4

748 When Christ our Lord to Jordan came (*see also version below*)

749 When Christ's appearing was made known G6

831 O baptized people, one and all G3

### **AT**

118 Jesus went down to the water