

# The Order of Service for Home Worship

## THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST



Hymn 1: Take my life, and let it be

- 1 Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
- 3 Take my voice, and let me sing  
Always, only, for my King;  
Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold;  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect, and use  
Every power as Thou shalt choose.
- 5 Take my will, and make it Thine;  
It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart; it is Thine own;  
It shall be Thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure-store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
Grace and peace be with you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Father of glory, holy and eternal, look upon us now in power and mercy. May your strength overcome our weakness, your radiance transform our blindness, and your Spirit draw us to that love shown and offered to us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

As we come into the presence of our heavenly Father let us seek his forgiveness of our sins that we may know his peace in our hearts.

Lord Jesus, mighty God and Prince of Peace.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, Word made flesh and splendour of the Father. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, glory be to God on high;  
Alleluia, to the Saviour who has gained the victory;  
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity;  
Alleluia, Alleluia, to the Triune Majesty.**

**Collect:** Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant that we who are born again by water and the Spirit may rejoice to be called your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A reading from book of the prophet Isaiah**

**42. 1-9**

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have

called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.  
This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 29**

**Response: May the Lord bless his people with peace.**

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;  
worship the Lord in holy splendour. (R)

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord, over mighty waters.  
The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. (R)

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.  
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox. (R)

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.  
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. (R)

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,  
and strips the forest bare;  
and in his temple all say, 'Glory!' (R)

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever.  
May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless his people with peace (R)

## **A reading from the book of Acts**

**10. 34-43**

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'  
This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.**

**3. 13-17**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### ***Meditation:***

It is hard to believe that only two weeks ago we celebrated the birth of Jesus and last Sunday we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany when the three wise men visited Jesus and brought him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Today, we are celebrating the Baptism of Christ and we have jumped forward in Jesus' life. Jesus is no longer the babe in a manger but is now a grown man. Today, as he queues amongst the crowds who have flocked to the banks of the river Jordan, Jesus is baptised by his cousin John. As Jesus emerges from the waters, Matthew tells of how "suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him." Matthew continues by telling of how God proclaims, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." It is here at the river Jordan that Jesus begins his public ministry. Through accepting baptism, Jesus commits himself to undertaking the work of God, his heavenly father. As we celebrate the Baptism of Christ, we reflect on our baptism and the vocation to which we are called as baptised disciples of Christ. For each of us, our baptism in the blessed water in the font was the beginning of our journey through life with Christ. It was at our baptism that the seed of faith was planted in our hearts, the Holy Spirit made his home with us and God declared us his children. At his baptism Jesus accepted his calling to make known the saving power of God's love to the world and we, at our baptism accepted the same calling. We are called to bring the good news of God's love to all among whom we live, work and meet. We are called to bring the good news that all are loved by God and everyone is important to him. God's love brings freedom from our fears and anxieties, our feelings of guilt and forgiveness for our sins and God's love brings peace, hope and belonging that is so needed in the world today. As we celebrate the baptism of Christ and the beginning of his public ministry, today, we re-commit ourselves to joining him in that ministry and tell all of the wonderful news of the love of God for all his children, that we all belong to him and in Jesus, Emmanuel, God is with us forever. **Amen.**

### **Intercessions:**

In the power of the Holy Spirit and in union with Christ let us bring our prayers for the Church and for the world to our heavenly Father.

We pray for the Church throughout the world, for the leaders of the Church among them Mary our Bishop. We pray for the clergy and people of our diocese and for our own churches; that the Church may be a beacon of light leading people to Christ. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of the world, for the victims of violence and oppression, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster and for those suffering from famine or drought; May the light which is Christ shine on the darkest places of the world transforming them with his love. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own community, for our families, friends and neighbours. We give thanks for all who serve the needs of the vulnerable; may Christ be the star who leads us through life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need, for those who are sick, for those who are bereaved, for the lonely and isolated and for all in any kind of need. We hold in our hearts before God those known to us who are in need at this time and all whose names are recorded in our parish intercession books; may they be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and consoled with the love of Christ. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died. We remember before God our own departed loved ones and we pray for the recently departed and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. May they share the eternal glory of heaven in the company of all the saints. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring all our prayers to our heavenly Father as we pray together:

**Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy Kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses**

as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the Kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Peace:**

Jesus said, "Peace, I bequeath to you; my own peace I give you; a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. The peace of the Lord be with you and with all those whom you love. **And also with you.**

**Let us pray:**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Blessing:**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The peace of God which is beyond all understanding guard your hearts in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Hymn 2 Crown Him with Many Crowns.**

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark, all the heavenly anthems drown all music but its own:  
Awake my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.
2. Crown him the Virgin's Son, the God incarnate born,  
Whose arm those crimson trophies won which now his brow adorn;  
Fruit of the mystic Rose, as of that Rose the stem,  
The Root, whence mercy ever flows, the Babe of Bethlehem.

3. Crown him the Lord of love, behold his hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:  
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends each burning eye at mysteries so bright.
4. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a sceptre sways  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise:  
His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet  
Fair flowers of paradise extend, their fragrance ever sweet.
5. Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

