

*Welcome to Morning Prayer at St Oswald's Church
Epiphany Season Sunday, 10 January 2021
The Baptism of Christ*

Preparation

Minister: O Lord, open our lips
All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Minister: Your light springs up for the righteous
All and all the peoples have seen your glory.

The prayer of thanksgiving

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Minister: Blessed are you, Sovereign God, king of the nations,
to you be praise and glory for ever. From the rising of the sun
to its setting your name is proclaimed in all the world. As the
Sun of Righteousness dawns in our hearts anoint our lips with
the seal of your Spirit that we may witness to your gospel and
sing your praise in all the earth. Blessed be God, Father, Son
and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

A Song of Joy

Minister: O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Lay Minister: Know that the Lord is God;
it is he that has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Minister: Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and bless his name.

Lay Minister: For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting,
and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation. *Psalm 100*

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The opening prayer

Minister: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

Lay Minister: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your
presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever.
All Amen.

The Word of God

The appointed psalmody is said. *Psalm 89.19-29*

***Refrain: All: The Lord has sworn an oath to David,
a promise from which he will not shrink.***

Minister: You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:
'I have set a youth above the mighty;
I have raised a young man over the people.

Lay Minister: 'I have found David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

Minister: 'My hand shall hold him fast
and my arm shall strengthen him.

Lay Minister: No enemy shall deceive him,
nor any wicked person afflict him.

Minister: 'I will strike down his foes before his face
and beat down those that hate him.

Lay Minister: 'My truth also and my steadfast love shall be with him,
and in my name shall his head be exalted.

Minister: 'I will set his dominion upon the sea
and his right hand upon the rivers.

Lay Minister: 'He shall call to me, "You are my Father,
my God, and the rock of my salvation;"

Minister: 'And I will make him my firstborn:
the most high above the kings of the earth.

Lay Minister: 'The love I have pledged to him will I keep for ever,
and my covenant will stand fast with him.

Minister: 'His seed also will I make to endure for ever
and his throne as the days of heaven. *R*

**Refrain: All: *The Lord has sworn an oath to David,
a promise from which he will not shrink.***

*Lay Minister: Faithful God, remember your promise fulfilled in your anointed
Son Jesus Christ,
in whose strength alone we stand, now and for ever.*

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the
beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The First Scripture reading:

The Lay Minister: The First Reading is taken from 1 Samuel 16.1-3,13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

*This is the word of the Lord:
All Thanks be to God.*

The Canticle

Refrain: **All The Spirit of God fills the whole world.**

Minister: I will take you from the nations,
and gather you from all the countries.

Lay Minister: I will sprinkle clean water upon you,
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses.

Minister: A new heart I will give you,
and put a new spirit within you,

Lay Minister: And I will remove from your body the heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh.

Minister: You shall be my people,
and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36.24-26, 28b

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

All The Spirit of God fills the whole world.

The Second Scripture Reading:

The Minister: The Second Reading is taken from John 1.29-34

The next day when he [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming towards him he declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with

the Holy Spirit.” And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.’

This is the word of the Lord:
All Thanks be to God.

The responsory is said: (from Psalm 96)

The Minister: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
All let the whole earth tremble before him.

The Lay Minister: Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is King.
All O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The Minister: Tell out his salvation from day to day.
All Let the whole earth tremble before him.

The Lay Minister: Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.
All O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.

The Gospel Canticle: The Benedictus
(The Song of Zechariah) is said together,

Refrain: **All: Jesus is baptized and the whole world is made holy; Christ washes away our sins and purifies us with the Holy Spirit.**

All: Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us. To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way. To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness

and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Luke*
1.68-79

All Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Refrain: All: Jesus is baptized and the whole world is made holy; Christ washes away our sins and purifies us with the Holy Spirit.

Prayers: The Intercessions are offered:

The Lay Minister: God of love, today we celebrate your delight and love for Jesus, your Son.

We pray that your church will show your love in all the world: help us not to drive away, but to welcome, not to not condemn but to celebrate, not to fall into smallness of heart, but to speak of the height, depth and width of your love for all your children.

Lord, in your mercy **All: *hear our prayer***

The Minister: God who speaks love, we pray for your world, for those in authority and all those we love at his time of challenge. Hold the church in this benefice, our schools, teachers, parents and the children, our families, and our friends, in the palm of your hand. And bring all those we love your comfort and your peace.

Lord, in your mercy **All: *hear our prayer***

The Lay Minister: God whose Son, Jesus, lived with us, full of love and compassion, we pray for all who are sick, those afflicted by coronavirus, all those suffering in body, mind or spirit, and those with no sense of being loved. In places of need, we ask that you will speak again those words; 'you are my beloved: I delight in you.'

Lord, in your mercy **All: *hear our prayer***

The Minister: We pray for those who have died, those who will die today, and for families and friends struggling with grief in difficult circumstances. As you welcome your children home, draw them into your great love

Lord, in your mercy **All: *hear our prayer:***

All: *Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ Amen.*

The Collect of the day is said:

The Minister: Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted 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. **All Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said:

The Lay Minister: Believing the promises of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All: 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 Blessing and Conclusion

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The Minister: May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

All: Amen.

May God the Son, who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

All: Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth.

All: Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, remain with you and all those you love this day and forever more.

All: Amen.

The Lay Minister: We have Christ the living water: Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.