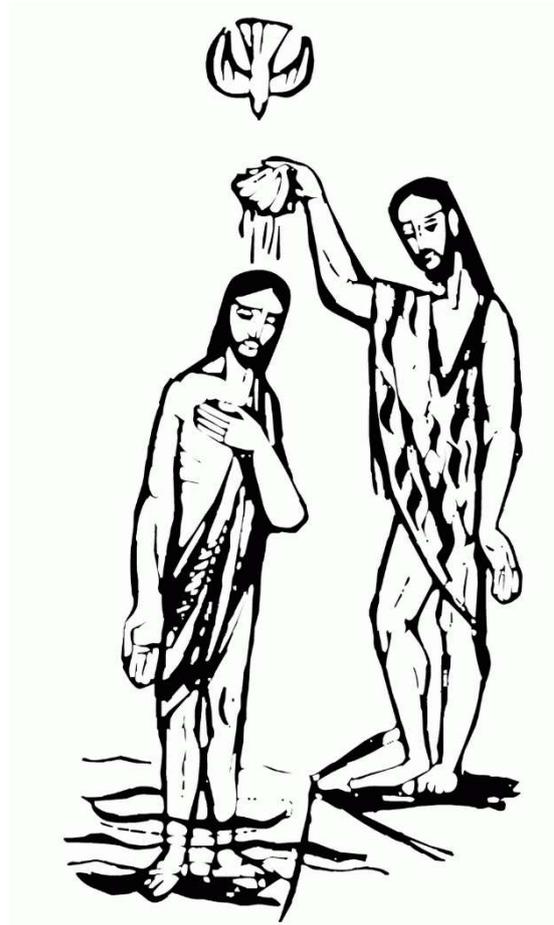


St. John's Church Newport



**Holy Communion for the
Feast of the Baptism of Christ**

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly the candidates but also parents, godparents and sponsors, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith. The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Hearing and doing these things provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens on the Christian way. There is the sign of the cross, the badge of faith in the Christian journey, which reminds us of Christ's death for us. Our 'drowning' in the water of baptism, where we believe we die to sin and are raised to new life, unites us to Christ's dying and rising, a picture that can be brought home vividly by the way the baptism is administered. Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit. This reminds us of Jesus' baptism. And as a sign of that new life, there may be a lighted candle, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptized walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

John 10.10

The Gathering

The president says

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe!
From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.
The Lord of glory be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Introduction

At our Lord's baptism in the river Jordan
God showed himself to all who have eyes to see and ears to
hear. The Father spoke from heaven, the Spirit descended as a
dove and Jesus was anointed with power from on high.
Here is the door of faith, through which we enter the kingdom
of heaven. As children of God, we are adopted as his sons and
daughters, and called to proclaim the wonders of him who
called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The Collect

Let us pray that we may be faithful to our baptism
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.**

First Reading

Genesis 1.1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face
of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the
waters. ³Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.
⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the
light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the
darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was
morning, the first day.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit

descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven,
“You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Mark 1:4-11

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Water is poured into the font with these words

God in Christ gives us water welling up for eternal life.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

All Lord, give us this water and we shall thirst no more.

The president stands before the water and says

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
All who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life. Over water the Holy
Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you
led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in
the Promised Land. In water your Son Jesus received the
baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the
Messiah, the Christ, to lead us from the death of sin to newness
of life.

Lord of life,

All renew your creation.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.
In it we are buried with Christ in his death.
By it we share in his resurrection.
Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.
Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,
we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.
Lord of life,

All **renew your creation.**

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
they may be cleansed from sin and born again.
Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith and
continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to
whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.
Lord of life,

All **renew your creation.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise for your gift of water in
creation; for your Spirit, sweeping over the waters, bringing
light and life; for your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, baptized in the
river Jordan. We bless you for your new creation, brought to
birth by water and the Spirit, and for your grace bestowed
upon us your children, washing away our sins.
May your holy and life-giving Spirit move upon these waters.
Restore through them the beauty of your creation, and bring
those who are baptized
to new birth in the family of your Church.
Drown sin in the waters of judgement,
anoint your children with power from on high,
and make them one with Christ in the freedom of your
kingdom. For all might, majesty, dominion and power are
yours, now and for ever.

All **Alleluia. Amen.**

I saw water flowing from the threshold of the temple.

All **Wherever the river flows
everything will spring to life. Alleluia.**

On the banks of the river grow trees bearing every kind of fruit.

All **Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail.**

Their fruit will serve for food, their leaves for the healing of the nations.

All **For the river of the water of life
flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb.**

God of truth, you are faithful to the covenant you have made with us; look in mercy on your people.

From all our sins, O Lord:

All **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

We have broken the pledges of our baptism,
and failed to be your disciples.

From all our sins, O Lord:

All **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

Though we are saved by Christ and dead to sin through the deep waters of death, we have not witnessed to his grace by our manner of life.

From all our sins, O Lord:

All **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

We have shown indifference to those in need
and have been afraid to stand up for justice and truth.

From all our sins, O Lord:

All **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

We have been slow to forgive, and have failed to remember your repeated forgiveness of our sins.

From all our sins, O Lord:

All **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

Today we rejoice and give thanks
because your Son humbled himself to be baptized in the
Jordan. Through the waters you have given us the mystery of
baptism for the remission of our sins.

From all our sins, O Lord:

All **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

Through water and Spirit you give us new life as the people of
God, and pour out upon us the gifts of your new covenant.

From all our sins, O Lord:

All **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

Almighty God, in our baptism you have consecrated us
to be temples of your Holy Spirit.

May we, whom you have counted worthy,
nurture your indwelling Spirit with a lively faith,
and worship you with upright lives;
through Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

‘Come,’ say the Spirit and the Bride.

‘Come forward, you who are thirsty,
receive the water of life,
the free gift to all who desire it.’

May almighty God have mercy on *us*,
forgive *us our* sins,
and bring *us* to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Peace

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end.

cf Isaiah 9.6,7

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Open the heavens, Lord our God, and send your transforming
Spirit on us and on these gifts.

May we who are baptized into Christ
be ready to share his cup of suffering
and strengthened to serve him for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only
Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made
present in our midst.

In the coming of the magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.

Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,**
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we
proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen
in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O
loving Father, for ever and ever.

All

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

All Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The president and people receive communion.

If you are joining us online, please use these prayers as a form of spiritual communion.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

All Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

The Dismissal

The Father's voice bears witness to the Son.

All God has revealed himself to us.

The Son bows his head beneath the waters of baptism.

All God has revealed himself to us.

The Spirit as a dove descends from heaven.

All God has revealed himself to us.

Submitting to John's baptism, Christ delivers us from bondage.

All God has revealed himself to us.

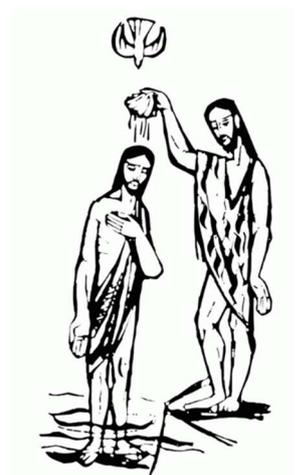
Blessing

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

We have come to Christ, the living water. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.



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