

Our Lady of Loretto and St Michael, Musselburgh

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



(YEAR C)

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen**

FIRST READING A reading from the prophet Isaiah (40:1-5.9-11)

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,

let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'
Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (

R. Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. **R.**

Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servants. **R.**

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting
living things great and small. **R.**

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill. **R.**

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**

SECOND READING A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus (2:11-14,3:4-7)

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what

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we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life. **The word of the Lord.**

Alleluia, alleluia! Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I. he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia



THE HOLY GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (3:15-16,21-22)

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Baptismal Profession of Faith

Celebrant: Do you reject Satan? **I do**

Celebrant: And all his work? **I do**

Celebrant: And all his empty promises? **I do**

C. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth? **I do**

C: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? **I do**

C. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting? **I do**

ALL. This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to confess it, in Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Sacrament of Baptism

In Christianity, *baptism* is the sacrament of adoption into God's family and admission to the church, symbolized by the pouring or sprinkling of water on the head or by immersion in water. The rite is accompanied by the words "I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." In the doctrine originated by St. Paul, it signifies the wiping away of past sins and the rebirth of the individual into a new life in Christ. Judaism practiced ritual purification by immersion, and the Gospels report that John the Baptist baptised Jesus. From the outset Baptism was a universal practice in the early church. Originally for adult converts it soon followed the timing Jewish circumcision soon after birth and so it was given to the children of practicing Christians. Most Christian groups follow the Church's practice of infant baptism. It should be noted however, that some Catholic churches and groups will still baptise children and adult converts by full immersion.