

The Season After Epiphany



The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ
By He Qi

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."

Matthew 3:16-17

The Season After Epiphany

We Gather to Worship

Welcome and Life of the Church

Centering Music

The Lord is My Light (842)

[Insert music]

Spirit of the Living God (288)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Jesus, Remember Me (227)

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom. (2x)

Come and Fill Our Hearts (466)

Come and fill our hearts with your peace,

You alone, O Lord, are holy. (3x)

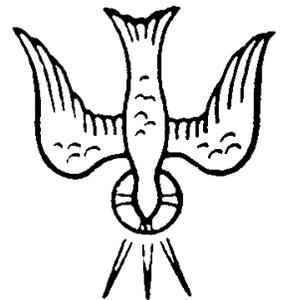
67 My Song Forever Shall Record

666 O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

Call to Worship

Filling the Font (using several of the water prayers below)

- ❖ Sweep away our fear in the raging flood of your grace. (Exodus 14)
- ❖ Lead us beside the still waters of your presence. (Psalm 23)
- ❖ Let our roots grow deep in your righteous stream. (Psalm 1)
- ❖ Wash us clean in the drenching rains of your mercy. (Psalm 51)
- ❖ Quench our thirst in the deep wells of your friendship. (Isaiah 12)
- ❖ Let us drink deeply from the living waters of your love. (John 4)
- ❖ Restore us with the healing balm of your faithfulness. (John 5)
- ❖ Hold us fast when the rivers of chaos swirl around us. (Isaiah 43)



Prayer of Confession

Leader: The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin together using liturgy (A or B).

(A) Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace. (*silent confession*) Amen.

(B) You asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose.
I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.
You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice.
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.
I closed them, for I did not want to see.
You asked for my life that you might work through me.
I gave a small part that I might not get too involved.

Lord forgive my calculated efforts to serve you,
Only when it is convenient for me to do so,
Only in those places where it is safe to do so,
And only with those who make it easy to do so.

Father, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross. (*silent confession*) Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

(A) Hear the good news! God's mercy is poured out like a mighty river; grace flows like a never-ending stream. Believe the gospel and give thanks! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

(B) This is the good news of the gospel, and it is for you and for all. Whatever you have done, whatever you have failed to do, whoever you are, whoever you wish you were but are not: You are accepted, you are welcomed. You are washed clean, you are raised up. You are forgiven, you are set free. Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

Musical Response

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us share that forgiveness with one another in the passing of the peace of Christ. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you!**

Musical Response:

(A) Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (753)

1. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and Where there's doubt, true faith in you.
2. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light, and Where there's sadness ever joy.

(B) Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (753)

3. O, Master, grant that I may never seek So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand, To be loved as to love with all my soul.
4. Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive, And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

We Hear the Word Read and Proclaimed

Prayer for Illumination

(A) Saving God, source of our calling, your Word is full of power and glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may receive your grace and live as your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(B) Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

Scripture

One: The Word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

We Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles Creed (question format)

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I 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. Amen.

A Declaration of Faith (excerpt)

God sends the church into the world. God has not taken his people out of the world, but has sent them into the world to worship him there and serve all humankind. We worship God in the world by standing before the Lord in behalf of all people. Our cries for help and our songs of praise are never for ourselves alone. Worship is no retreat from the world; it is part of our mission. We serve humankind by discerning what God is doing in the world and joining him in his work. We risk disagreement and error when we try to say what God is doing here and now. But we find guidance in God's deeds in the past and his promises for the future, as they are witnessed to in Scripture. We affirm that the Lord is at work, especially in events and movements that free people by the gospel and advance justice, compassion and peace.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.

We Feast at God's Table

Worship Note: The bread for communion is gluten-free.

Offering of God's People

In coming forward for communion, worshipers have the following options:

- Worshipers may make a gesture—touching the offering plate, nod their head as a sign of intention, make the sign of the cross, etc.
- Worshipers may make a financial contribution.
- Worshipers may place an "I Give" Card" (found in the pew racks) in the offering plate.
- Worshipers may find other creative ways to express their offering—putting a business card in the offering plate, a note, or some other personal affect.

Offering of God: Bread and Cup

Communion Service A and B on the following pages.

When receiving communion, you are invited to respond "Thanks be to God" or "Amen."

We Go Out to Serve

Closing Hymn

Charge and Benediction

Service A

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING “Lift up Your Hearts” (sung)

Tune: BUNESSAN

LEADER: May God be with you!

PEOPLE: **And also with you!**

LEADER: Lift hearts and voices gladly to God.

PEOPLE: **Everywhere, always, this is the right thing, Praising our Maker, holy and good.**

LEADER: *(spoken)*

Holy Source and Origin of all, deep within us, far beyond us,
we thank you and praise you for creating and bringing to birth
this unfathomed universe of space and time,
with stars and planets, and our own good earth.

PEOPLE: **From the dawn of time, you loved the earth and its peoples.
You revealed yourself to the people of Israel,
Set them free from slavery, and made a covenant with them
that all humankind might be blessed.**

LEADER: And so, with all your people
Past, present, and to come we join the everlasting hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy” (Sung)

Tune: NICAEA

PEOPLE: **Holy, Holy, Holy, earth reveals your glory,
Author of the universe. In Christ your face we see.
Gathered by the Spirit, we will tell your story,
Three who are One, unfathomed Trinity!**

**Holy, Holy, Holy, saving and restoring,
Blessed is the One who comes, your glory to proclaim.
With the saints we praise you, thankfully adoring.
Hail and Hosanna, hallowed be your name!**

LEADER: We thank you and praise you, Holy God, that at this table we taste and see
the evidence of your love in Jesus Christ,
healing, teaching, suffering, crucified, risen and alive.
Therefore we offer ourselves, in Christ to be a living sacrifice,
of body, mind and spirit, joyfully, proclaiming the mystery of faith:

“Great is the Mystery” (Sung)

Tune: JUDAS MACCABEUS

PEOPLE: Great is the myst'ry; faith shall say: Amen! –
Christ who died is risen; Christ will come again!
Lift the cup of blessing, share the broken bread.
Taste and see Christ Jesus, risen from the dead.
One in the Spirit, gladly sing "Amen,
Christ who died is risen; Christ will come again!"

LEADER: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and cup
that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

PEOPLE: By your Spirit, make us one in Christ.
Give us wisdom, hope, and strength, to show love, resist evil,
and give you thanks and praise, till we feast with you in glory.

LEADER: Ever-Living God, you alone deserve all honor, worship and praise,
through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: Breaking and Blessing

COMMUNION HYMN 498

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

CLOSING COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Bountiful God, at this table you have graciously fed us with the bread of life
and the cup of eternal salvation.

People: **May we who have reached out our hands to receive this sacrament be
strengthened in your service.**

Leader: May we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth in our lives.

People: **May we who have seen the greatness of your love see you face to face in
your kingdom and come to worship you with all your saints for ever.**

Leader: Gracious Lord, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Strengthen us in the power of your Spirit to live and work
for your praise and glory.**

All: **AMEN**

{Return to the bottom of page 5}

Service B

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Great Prayer:

It is truly right...who forever sings to the glory of your name.

Sanctus (Glory to God, 552)

You are holy...Great is the mystery of faith

Memorial Acclamation (Glory to God, 553)

Gracious God...all glory and honor are yours almighty God now and forever.

Great Amen (Glory to God, 554)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: Breaking and Blessing

COMMUNION HYMN 515

I Come With Joy

CLOSING COMMUNION PRAYER (Unison)

Faithful God, in baptism you have adopted us as your children, made us members of the body of Christ and chosen us as inheritors of your kingdom: we thank you that at this table you renew your promises within us, empower us by your Spirit to witness and to serve, and send us out as disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

{Return to the bottom of page 5}



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