

Longford Eight & South Dales Benefices

Introduction: *from back of church before the service.*

Welcome to this service of Evening Prayer for the Baptism of Christ from Christ Church, Long Lane.

*Our churches, both of South Dales and Longford 8, remain closed for public worship on Sundays and our PCCs are currently meeting (virtually and retrospectively) to ask the bishop's permission to authorise this. The majority of our buildings remain open for private prayer, all are open for funerals. Please keep an eye on Facebook, **A Church Near You** websites, your email in-box, and church noticeboards, for our online services and any changes to Government and Church of England advice.*

I am very grateful to those who are helping in our worship this evening: the Revd Dr. John Vickerstaff, Rector of the South Dales, who will preach and act as cantor; David Vincett for playing the organ; Alan Smith for doing the prayers; Frances Rymer and my husband David for reading the lessons and, respectively, leading the singing and doing the recording.

Evening Prayer from The Book of Common Prayer

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit : a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Psalm 51.17

Sit or kneel

DEARLY beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness;

Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying:

**All: ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father,
We have erred, and strayed from thy ways
like lost sheep,
We have followed too much the devices and desires
of our own hearts,
We have offended against thy holy laws,
We have left undone those things which we ought to
have done,
And we have done those things which we ought not
to have done,
And there is no health in us:
But thou, O Lord,
have mercy upon us miserable offenders;
Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults,
Restore thou them that are penitent,
According to thy promises declared unto mankind in
Christ Jesu our Lord:
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and
sober life,
To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.

Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Priest. O Lord, open thou our lips.

Answer. **And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

Priest. O God, make speed to save us.

Answer. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*Here, all standing up, the Priest shall sing,
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Ghost;*

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

Priest. Praise ye the Lord.

Answer. **The Lord's Name be praised.**

Psalm

Psalm 29 BCP (Coverdale) Psalter

¹ Bring unto the Lord, O ye mighty, bring young rams unto the Lord ♦

ascribe unto the Lord worship and strength.

² Give the Lord the honour due unto his Name ♦ worship the Lord with holy worship.

³ It is the Lord, that commandeth the waters ♦
it is the glorious God, that maketh the thunder.

⁴ It is the Lord, that ruleth the sea; the voice of the Lord is mighty in operation ♦

the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

⁵ The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedar-trees ♦
yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Libanus.

⁶ He maketh them also to skip like a calf ♦ Libanus also, and Sirion, like a young unicorn.

⁷ The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness ♦

yea, the Lord shaketh the wilderness of Cades.

⁸ The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to bring forth young, and discovereth the thick bushes ♦

in his temple doth every man speak of his honour.

⁹ The Lord sitteth above the water-flood ♦

and the Lord remaineth a King for ever.

¹⁰ The Lord shall give strength unto his people ♦

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

All **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.**

Old Testament Reading

Sit

Genesis 1.1-5

The Old Testament Lesson is taken from the book of Genesis, chapter 1 beginning at the first verse.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the 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. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Here ends the first lesson.

Stand

MAGNIFICAT

Luke 1

MY soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in **God** my Saviour.

For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their
hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant
Israel : as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and
his seed, for ever.

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.

Sit

New Testament Reading

Mark 1.4-11

The New Testament Lesson is taken from the 1st chapter of the gospel according to St. Mark, beginning at the fourth verse.

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.'

Here ends the second lesson.

NUNC DIMITTIS *Stand* *Luke 2.29*

**LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.**

For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;

**To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.**

**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.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father
Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body,
And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

*And after that these Prayers following, all devoutly kneeling: the
Minister first pronouncing with a loud voice,*

Minister. The Lord be with you.

Answer. **And with thy spirit.**

Minister. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Answer. **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon 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.
Amen.**

Priest. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Answer. **And grant us thy salvation.**

Priest. O Lord, save the Queen.

Answer. **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Priest. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Answer. **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

Priest. O Lord, save thy people.

Answer. **And bless thine inheritance.**

Priest. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Answer. **Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.**

Priest. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Answer. **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

The First Collect, of the day

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.

Amen.

The Second Collect, for Peace

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

HYMN

The people that in darkness sat
a glorious light have seen;
the light has shined on them who long
in shades of death have been.

For unto us a Child is born,
to us a Son is given,
and on his shoulder ever rests
all power in earth and heaven.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
the Everlasting Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counsellor.
the God by all adored.

His righteous government and power
shall over all extend;
on judgment and on justice based,
his reign shall have no end.

J. Morrison (1750-98)

Prayers

Let us pray: *Sit or kneel*

Alan Smith

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
you have created the heavens and the earth.
Blessed are you, Jesus Christ,
you came among us and were baptised of John.
Blessed are you, holy life-giving Spirit,
you descended as a dove and you fill us with life.
Blessed are you Holy Three,
In you we live and move and have our being.

Amen

Holy God, holy and Strong One, Holy and Mighty One,
we give you thanks for all who are baptised.
We praise you for your own baptism and pray that we may know
that we are always immersed in your presence.
Give your church the power to show that we are members of
Christ,
children of God and inheritors of the kingdom of heaven.
We pray for all who are being prepared for baptism or
confirmation:
for our Grandchildren and our Godparents,
for all who have been baptised in our in this place.

Lord of light

Enlighten all your people

We pray for justice among all nations:
we remember his specially any who all held hostage,
any who suffer tyranny or captivity.

We pray for all who are slaves to debt
and for the world banks in dealing with the poor nations;
that we may all work for justice and peace.

Lord of light

Enlighten all your people

We give thanks for all who are concerned with our well- being.
We pray for parents and loved ones,
for those who have shared their lives and their faith with us,
for all with whom we work and share our lives.
for all our friends.

Lord of light

Enlighten all your people

We pray for all who are feeling badly bruised,
by illness by accident or by circumstance.
For all who have suffered spiritually or mentally,
for those with memories that disturb or frighten them.
We remember all who have lost confidence in themselves
or in others.

We pray for the world-weary the worn and the weak,
That the Lord will give strength to all his people.

Lord of light

Enlighten all your people

We pray for all who having been baptised have kept their faith;
we pray especially for loved ones departed from us who are with
you in glory.

May they rejoice in that great awareness
of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

May we rejoice with them as joint inheritors of the kingdom of
heaven Lord of light enlighten all your people.

Lord of light
Enlighten all your people

God of love and hope,
you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels
strange right now.

The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.

Some people are worried that they might get ill.

Others are anxious for their family and friends.

Be with them and help them to find peace.

We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, those who
worked to find a vaccine,

and for all who will help in its delivery, to all who wait in hope.

For all who are continuing to work in discovering the right
medicines to help those who are ill with other diseases.

Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us.

Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.

Lord of light

Enlighten all your people

All **THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

2 Corinthians 13.

Here ends the Order of Evening Prayer throughout the Year.

HYMN

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every breast from sin:
make straight the way for God within,
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

*J. Coffin (1676-1749)
tr. J Chandler (1806-76)*

Homily

The Revd Dr John Vickerstaff

HYMN

Hail to the Lord's Anointed
great David's greater Son.
Hail in the time appointed
his reign on earth begun.
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression
and rule in equity.

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth
and love, joy, hope, like flowers
spring in his path to birth:
before him, on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness, in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall bow down before him
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing:
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing
a kingdom without end.

J. Montgomery (1771-1854)

Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the
Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.
All Amen.