

The Benefice of Chew Valley East

Morning Prayer for Sunday 11 January 2026, Baptism of Christ

*If you wish to join in the service, then the words in bold are to be said together.
Please join in with the Psalms and Canticles by reciting each one in its entirety.*

Preparation

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

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

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.
Blessed be God for ever.

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

Silence is kept.

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. **Amen.**

The Word of God

Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, ♦
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; ♦
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

³The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; ♦
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; ♦
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

⁵The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; ♦
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶He makes Lebanon skip like a calf ♦
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; ♦
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁸The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare; ♦
in his temple all cry, ‘Glory!’

⁹The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood; ♦
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

¹⁰The Lord shall give strength to his people; ♦
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

**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.**

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality,’ ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

Canticle

The Spirit of God fills the whole world.

¹I will take you from the nations, ♦
and gather you from all the countries.

²I will sprinkle clean water upon you, ♦
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses.

³A new heart I will give you, ♦
and put a new spirit within you,

⁴And I will remove from your body the heart of stone ♦
and give you a heart of flesh.

⁵You shall be my people, ♦
and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36.24-26, 28b

**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 Spirit of God fills the whole world.

Second Reading: Matthew 3:13-17

¹³Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

Responsory

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is King.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Tell out his salvation from day to day.

Let the whole earth tremble before him.

Declare his glory among the nations

and his wonders among all peoples.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

let the whole earth tremble before him.

from Psalm 96

Gospel Canticle: Benedictus

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

¹Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free.

²He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.

³Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

⁴To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.

⁵This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

⁶Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

⁷And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

⁸To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

⁹In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

¹⁰To 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

**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.**

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

Intercessions

To the words:

Lord of truth,

Please respond:

hear our prayer.

Jesus calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Washed clean by the waters of baptism,
let us pray that we may live the life to which he has called us.

Lord Jesus, eternal Word,
proclaimed as the Christ by John the forerunner,
hear us as we pray for all who proclaim your word ...

Lord of truth, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, baptizing with the Spirit and with fire,
strengthen us to withstand all the trials of our faith ...
Lord of truth, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, bringing forgiveness to all who repent,
teach your Church dependence on your grace ...
Lord of truth, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, fulfilment of the promises of old,
give hope to all who suffer or are ignored ...
Lord of truth, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, beloved Son of the Father,
anoint us with the gifts of your Holy Spirit ...
Lord of truth, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope,
share with all the faithful the riches of eternal life ...
Lord of truth, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ,
in you the Father makes us and all things new.
Transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory.

Amen.

Collect

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Conclusion

May Christ, who sends us to the nations,
give us the power of his Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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