

Parish Church of St Alphege Solihull



Choral Eucharist in Christmastide

10th January 2021

The Baptism of Christ

A warm welcome to you. In order to worship safely a few elements of the service differ from our usual practice. Each person is asked to remain in their place throughout the service, other than to receive Communion when you will be guided by a steward. The person presiding, as well as brief notes in this order of service, will guide you as we proceed. While the service itself may be filmed for the benefit of those at home, only those leading will appear on film, not the congregation.

**Please take this order of service away with you and use it for prayer
at home/recycle it.**

Music before the Service: *Prelude* – William Harris

The Gathering

The Greeting

Please stand as able.

President: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

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.

The Lord bless you.

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

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

**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.**

The Collect

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

Silence is kept.

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 Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Please stand as able. The choir sings the Gospel Acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia. This is my Son, the Beloved,
with whom I am well pleased. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1:4-11

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Please sit.

Thanksgiving for Holy Baptism

The choir sings the first verse of the hymn 'Come, Holy Ghost', during which the celebrant will move to the table by the Eagle.

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Water is poured into the bowl 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.

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,

who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

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.

Alleluia. Amen.

The choir sings a further verse of 'Come, Holy Ghost'.

Thy blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love;
Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight:

Prayers of Penitence and Dedication

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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.

Amen.

The choir sings a further verse of 'Come, Holy Ghost'.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face

With the abundance of thy grace:

Keep far our foes, give peace at home;

Where thou art guide no ill can come.

The Absolution

‘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 you,
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The choir sings a final verse of ‘Come, Holy Ghost’.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of Both, to be but One;
That through the ages all along
This may be our endless song,

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand as able.

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn

We listen to two verses of the hymn 'Hail to the Lord's Anointed' sung to the tune 'Crüger'. You are welcome to pray the words silently as the choir sings.

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.

Kings shall fall 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.

James Montgomery

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

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.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please stand as able.

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You celebrated your new gift of baptism
in signs and wonders at the Jordan.
Your voice was heard from heaven
to awaken faith in the presence among us
of your Word made flesh.
Your Spirit was seen as a dove,
revealing Jesus as your servant,
and anointing him with the oil of gladness
to preach the good news to the poor.

Therefore, as we celebrate the union of earth and heaven,
we rejoice to echo the song of the angels in heaven
for ever praising you and saying:

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth,
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua:
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy
Lord God of Hosts
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini:
Hosanna in excelsis

*Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Music by Jean Langlais

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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 the Blesséd Virgin Mary, John the Baptist,
Alphege and 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.

Amen.

A bell is rung to signify the sacramental presence of Christ, followed by a moment of stillness.

The Lord's Prayer

Please sit.

Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

The Breaking of Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The Invitation

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

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

The celebrant raises the paten and chalice and says

The Body and Blood of Christ.

Amen.

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
Miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin
of the world: have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
Miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin
of the world: have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
Dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin
of the world: grant us peace.*

Music by Jean Langlais

The Giving of Communion

*Only the celebrant receives Communion under both kinds (bread and wine).
The hosts (bread) for the congregation will be in a closed ciborium (container)
which is uncovered just before the congregation receives.*

Post Communion Prayer

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.

Amen

**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.

Dismissal

Notices

The celebrant will give the details of any particularly important notices and read any Banns of Marriage.

Please see the weekly pewslip (available online or via the Parish Office) for a full list of notices.

The Blessing

Please stand as able.

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water
welling up to eternal life,
perfect in you the image of his glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

Go in the peace of Christ

Thanks be to God

Organ Voluntary: *Toccata in G* – Théodore Dubois