

Parish of Alston Moor
Hymns & Readings for Sunday 9th January
The Baptism of Christ
Sung Eucharist for Christmas & Epiphany

Introit: O, thou, who camest from above 580

O thou who camest from above
the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up the gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat;
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43.1-7 (NRSVA)

¹ Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

New Testament Reading: Acts 8.14-17 (NRSVA)

¹⁴ When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Gradual: Christ, when for us you were baptised 104

Christ, when for us you were baptised
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove, and yet
as urgent as a flame.

God called you his beloved Son,
called you his Servant too;
his kingdom you were called to preach,
his holy will to do.

Straightway and steadfast until death
you then obeyed his call,
Freely as Son of Man to serve,
and give your life for all.

Baptise us with your Spirit, Lord,
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find.

F Bland Tucker (1895-1984). Copyright © Church Publishing Inc., Church Hymnal Corporation

Gospel Reading: Luke 3.15-17,21,22 (NRSVA)

In the wilderness, John proclaimed a baptism of repentance.

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Offertory: Of the Father's love begotten 584

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, and have been,
and that future years shall see,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

At his word they were created;
he commanded; it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean
in their threefold order one;
all that grows beneath the shining
of the light of moon and sun,
evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven, adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King:
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers and sages
sang of old with one accord;
whom the writings of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected;
let our songs declare his worth,
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
and unwearied praises be;
honour, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore.

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413) trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) alt.

Communion: Jesu, Thou joy of loving hearts 374

Jesu, thou joy of loving hearts,
thou fount of life, thou perfect grace;
from the best bliss that earth imparts
we turn unfilled to seek thy face.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood,
thou savest those that on thee call;
to them that seek thee thou art good,
to them that find thee, all in all.

We taste thee, O thou living bread,
and long to feast upon thee still;
we drink of thee, the fountain-head,
and thirst our souls from thee to fill.

Our restless spirits yearn for thee,
where'er our changeful lot is cast,
glad when thy gracious smile we see,
blest when our faith is holding fast.

O Jesu, ever with us stay;
make all our moments calm and bright;
chase the dark night of sin away;
shed o'er the world thy holy light.

Jesu, dulcis memoria (12th century) trans. Ray Palmer (1808-1887) alt.

Final: When Jesus came to Jordan 821

When Jesus came to Jordan
to be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon
but as his Father's Son.
He came to share repentance
with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence
with which good news begins.

He came to share temptation,
our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation
to die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended
on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended,
the age of grace began.

Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
to keep the vows we make,
this very day invade us,
and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection
that leads to Pentecost.

*Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000).
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