



# Welcome to St Alban's

## The Feast of the Baptism of Christ

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OPENING HYMN @Paul Inwood 1986

*We shall draw water joyfully, singing joyfully, singing joyfully;  
We shall draw water joyfully from the well springs of salvation.*

Truly God is our salvation,  
We trust, we shall not fear.  
For the Lord is our strength, our song;  
He became our Saviour.

*Refrain*

Give thanks, O give thanks to the Lord;  
Give praise to his holy name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to all of the nations;  
Proclaim his greatness.

*Refrain*

Sing a psalm, sing a psalm to the Lord  
For he has done glorious deeds.  
Make known his works to all of the earth;  
People of Zion, sing for joy; for great in your midst,  
Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

*Refrain*

† In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

By the mercies of God, let us confess our sins and present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to him, which is our spiritual worship.

Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy**

#### ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you, † pardon and deliver you  
from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

#### GLORIA

**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

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

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 1.1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

THE GOSPEL  
Mark 1.4-11

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.**

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES CREED *Please stand if you are able*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.  
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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*RESPONSE:* Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayers we say together:*

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

THE PEACE *Please stand if you are able*

We are the body of Christ.  
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you:  
**And also with you.**

## THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Open the heavens, Holy Spirit, for us to see Jesus interceding for us;  
may we be willing to share his baptism, ready to share his cup  
and strengthened to serve him for ever. **Amen.**

## THE EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

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.

Great is the mystery of faith  
**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

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 Blessed Virgin Mary, St Alban 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.**

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**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace**

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 Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members.*

*In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.*

An Act of Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul  
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever. Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

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.**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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 ...

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**

CLOSING HYMN *Jack W. Hayford ©1976 Rocksmith Music/Leosong Copyright Service.*

**Majesty, worship His majesty,  
unto Jesus be glory, honour and praise.  
Majesty, kingdom authority,  
flow from his throne unto his own,  
his anthem raise.**

**So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus,  
magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King.  
Majesty, worship his majesty,  
Jesus who died, now glorified,  
King of all kings.**

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