



# Welcome to St Alban's

## Feast of the Baptism of Christ

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*Before the children leave for Children's Church we pray together:*

**Dear God, this church is a family.**

**Help us to learn together, to worship together,  
to share together and to pray together. In Jesus name. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *Charles Wesley (1707 - 1788)*

**1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.**

**2 Come, Almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above;  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**

**3 Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

*We are gathered together as one body*

† 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.**

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 *Copyright 2012 David Thorne Music*

***Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

**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.**

***Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

**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.  
*Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

**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.  
*Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

THE COLLECT (The special prayer 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**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 43.1-7

But now 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.  
<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.  
<sup>4</sup> 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.  
<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
<sup>6</sup> 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—  
<sup>7</sup> 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

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

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

GOSPEL: Luke 3.15-17,21-22

We sing....**Alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup>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.'

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED *Please stand if you are able*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten not made,  
of one Being with the Father, through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
he was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand**

**of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

#### THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.**

#### THE PEACE *Please stand if you are able*

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

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN: *C Coffin (1676-1749), tr. J Chandler (1808-1876)*

**1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Come then and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings from the King of kings.**

**2 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.**

**3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
Our refuge, and our great reward;  
Without thy grace we waste away,  
Like flowers that wither and decay.**

**4 Stretch forth thine hand, to heal our sore,  
And make us rise to fall no more;  
Once more upon thy people shine,  
And fill the world with love divine.**

**5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
Whose advent sets thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore,  
And Holy Ghost, for evermore.**

#### 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 singing:

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

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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.**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, 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.  
And 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.**

*Thorne, Mass of St Thomas ©2012 David Thorne Music*

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

*All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own churches are welcome to receive communion. Any member of the congregation may come to receive a blessing*

COMMUNION HYMN: ©Paul Inwood 1986.

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

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

**2. 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.**

**3. 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.**

*Prayers after Communion*

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 ©1994 Stephen Dean, published by Decani Music

**1 Thanks be to God whose love has gathered us this day;  
thanks be to God who helps and guides us on our way.  
Thanks be to God who gives us voice that we may thank him:  
*Deo gratias, Deo gratias, thanks be to God most high.***

**2 Thanks be to God for all the gifts of life and light;  
thanks be to God whose care protects us day and night.  
Thanks be to God who keeps in mind us who forget him:  
*Deo gratias, Deo gratias, thanks be to God most high.***

