

Liturgy Alive of Feast of the Baptism of Jesus

Greetings *(See Second Reading)*

God has revealed to us his kindness and love
in Jesus Christ our Savior
by saving us through the cleansing water of rebirth
and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit.
May the Lord Jesus be always with you.
R/ And also with you.

Introduction by the Celebrant

A. My Beloved Son

Still in the Christmas spirit we celebrate today the Lord's Baptism. On Christmas he manifested himself as a child, yet he was no other than God's Son. At the Epiphany he manifested himself to the Gentiles as the Savior of all people. Today he manifests himself as the Son intensely loved by the Father, with the Spirit resting on him and guiding him. Now he can begin his mission. In this Eucharist we ask our Lord to make us aware how we too, through baptism, are beloved sons and daughters of the Father, and how the fire of the Spirit should inflame us.

B. What About Our Baptism?

On this feast of Our Lord's baptism the liturgy reminds us of our own baptism. At his baptism Jesus saw the mission ahead of him and committed himself to it. He received heaven's confirmation that the Father and the Holy Spirit were with him in his mission of saving people. At our baptism too the Father accepted us as his beloved sons and daughters and gave us the mission of living the life of Christ for all people to see. We ask the Lord here with us to give us the insight and strength to accept our Christian mission in life.

Penitential Act

Let us examine ourselves before the Lord
to see whether we are taking our Christian life seriously.
(pause)

Lord Jesus, beloved Son of the Father,
the Father assured you of his approval:
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*
Jesus Christ, the Spirit came down on you
and confirmed that you were doing
what was right and good:
Christ, have mercy. *R/ Christ, have mercy.*
Lord Jesus, you brought us in baptism
the love of the Father

and the fire of the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*
Forgive us, Lord,
that we have not fully used
the grace of our baptism.
Renew us and lead us to everlasting life. *R/ Amen.*

Opening Prayer

Let us pray that with Jesus
we may be God's beloved sons and daughters
(pause)
God our Father,
with your whole people reborn in baptism
we give you thanks.
In Jesus, each of us has become
your beloved son or daughter.
Fill us with the fire of the Holy Spirit
who guided Jesus in life and death.
Let this Spirit set us free
to serve you and one another
with unselfish, grateful love.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *R/ Amen.*

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Introduction: Here Is Your God

To his repentant people, God promises a savior who will be like a loving shepherd. At his baptism Jesus will be revealed as that Savior and God's own Son.

Second Reading Introduction: God's Grace Is Shown In Jesus

God sent us a Savior to give us God's life. In his Son Jesus he showed us how great his compassionate love is.

Gospel Introduction: You Are My Beloved Son

In his description of Jesus' baptism Luke recognizes Jesus as God's Son. His Father invests Jesus with his mission as Savior and the Holy Spirit will guide him.

General Intercessions

Let us pray today to our Father in heaven, who sent his Son among us as a servant, to set us free and to make us new. Let us say to him: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*

• For the Church and its leaders, that they and we may not seek compromises with wealth and power, but learn to commit ourselves in love and to help the poor, let us pray: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*

- For all those who do not yet know Christ or who are estranged from the Church, that the way we live Christ's Gospel may reveal to them the love of the Lord, let us pray: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*
- For us Christians and for all people, that the Holy Spirit may guide us to respect all who are little and defenseless; that we may not crush them but give them justice, let us pray: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*
- For all who are baptized, that they may follow Christ and that like him they may learn to serve rather than to be served, let us pray: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*
- For us and for all our Christian communities, that the Eucharist may strengthen in us the gifts of the Holy Spirit and make us ever more faithful to our vocation as God's beloved children, let us pray: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*

Lord our God, you have called us to become new when we were baptized. Keep renewing us through your Spirit, that we may have the courage to go with Christ all the way, for he is your Son and our Lord for ever. *R/ Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Our God and Father,
 these gifts of bread and wine
 will become your beloved Son Jesus
 on whom your favor rests.
 Strengthen us with his body and blood
 and let his Holy Spirit renew us
 as people who live without compromise
 the message of justice and love
 and the very life of your Son.
 In this way, may we truly be
 your beloved sons and daughters
 on whom your favor rests,
 now and for ever. *R/ Amen.*

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

Let us give wholehearted thanks to the Father for having made us in baptism his beloved sons and daughters together with Jesus our Lord.

Invitation to the Lord's Prayer

Baptized in the Holy Spirit
 and children of the Father
 through Jesus, his beloved Son,
 we pray with all trust Jesus' own prayer: *R/ Our Father...*

Deliver Us

Deliver us Lord, from every evil
 and grant us your peace in our day.
 Revive in us the grace of baptism

and guide us by your Holy Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our mission
of living the life of Jesus in this world,
as we wait in joyful hope
for the coming in glory
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

R/ For the kingdom...

Invitation to Communion

This is Jesus our Lord,
the beloved Son of the Father,
on whom God's favor rests.
Happy are we to be invited
to share his table
and to live his life.

R/ Lord, I am not worthy...

Prayer after Communion

Our God and Father,
you have opened heaven to us
to strengthen us with the bread of life
and to fill us with the Holy Spirit.
Make us new and call us away
from our certainties and attachments.
Send us out to go forward without fear
on the road of justice and peace,
that we may be your beloved children
together with your faithful Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

Blessing

At his baptism
Jesus saw his vocation:
to serve God and people.
At our baptism
we were given our vocation.
It is, in our own small way,
the vocation of Jesus.
Let each of us become
a faithful servant
and son or daughter of the Father,
a humble servant of those around us.
And may Almighty God bless you all:

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *R/ Amen.*

Go in the peace and the love of the Lord. *R/ Thanks be to God.*