

In the waters of the Jordan River, God revealed that His Christ came to be with sinners and Jesus came to align Himself with us. He was anointed, not with the oil of joy but the Baptism of repentance. The reading for today focuses on the relationship Christ has with His people. He is a king who came to be in the trenches with His subjects. John preached a Baptism of repentance for the purpose of the forgiveness of sins. The call was heard by God's people, and they went out to him with forgiveness in mind. Yet John is pointing to the One who comes after him. John prepared the way for God to come in the flesh. Jesus appeared, was baptized, and was proclaimed by God to be His Son, the Servant Who fulfilled the prophecies of Isaiah.

© We bless You, O God, for the Revelation of Your will and wisdom in the life of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, even on the day of His Baptism.

By Your Holy Spirit implant in us more and more of the mind of Christ. Open our ears that we may gratefully hear and attend to the teaching and preaching of Your Word. In all things, instill in our hearts, O Lord, a continuing desire to be about Your business, to increase in wisdom, and to grow in favor with You and all people with whom we are in fellowship.

By Your mercy, O God, lead our children and young people in the same way You directed and led Your Holy Son, Jesus. Give us grace, as parents and elders, to show Your will and way to the young by faithful worship and love for Your Word and the precious Gospel.

In all our doings, heavenly Father, enable us as young and old alike to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to You. Deliver us from conformity to this world, and transform us by the renewing of our minds, that we may show forth Your good, acceptable and perfect will in our every thought, word and deed.

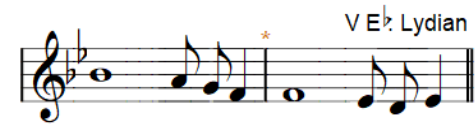
By Your Holy Spirit, O Lord, remove all weakness in Your church. Overcome all our fear to proclaim the Gospel, and stand fast in Your name.

Lord, You are mighty. You are the mighty God who spoke and it was done, Who commanded and it stood still, Who can order the stars in their path, the winds in their journey, the waves in their ebb and flow. Help us to know You and find strength in the greatness and wonder of Your might and mercy. In Your mercy, Lord, show Your strength and goodness to the sick and the afflicted, that they might return and with us rejoice in Your fellowship.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**
 Forgive us all our sin and grant us newness of life in Jesus Christ, in Whose
 name we bring these our petitions.

© Amen.

Chant Tone



Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul
delights.

I will tell of | the decree:*

The Lord said to Me, "You are my
Son; today I have be | gotten You.
Ask of Me, and I will make the nations
Your | heritage,*
and the ends of the Earth Your
pos — session.
You shall break them with a | rod of iron*
and dash them in pieces like a
potter's — vessel."

Now therefore, O | kings, be wise,*
be warned, O rulers | of the Earth.
Serve the | Lord with fear,*
and rejoice with — trembling,

for His wrath is quickly — kindled.*
Blessèd are all who take refuge in
Him.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy — Spirit;
as it was in the be — ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul
delights.

Collect of the Day

Father in Heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are Baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Praise the Lord, all — nations!*

Extol Him, all — peoples!
For great is His | Love toward us,*
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for — ever.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due His name,*
bring an offering and come in | to His courts!

(Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Almighty and Gracious God, creator and judge of all people, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise You for Your decision to establish justice on the Earth. We thank You for sending Your Servant, our Lord Jesus Christ, to bring justice to all nations. We thank You for identifying Him as Your beloved Son by anointing Him with the Holy Spirit and power at His Baptism. For revealing in Him Your true self as the Triune God at the Baptism of our Lord, we give You humble and hearty thanks. Now we know for certain that He is Your Son whom You sent to redeem us from sin, death, and the power of Satan, our expectations are secure. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE ADVENT WREATH IS GONE, BUT ONE CANDLE REMAINS.

This is the single Christ Candle from the center of the wreath. Jesus is the light of the world and we will keep the Christ Candle through the season of Epiphany to remind ourselves to live by His light. Today we hear of Jesus' Epiphany/appearance at the Jordan River to be Baptized by John. Jesus calls us to Himself with His Baptism, making it the light by which we are able to see Heaven. In the water and the Word of our Baptism, which has been given its power because and through the Baptism of Jesus, we are given our epiphany (our appearance) before God. In our epiphany before God, we are made to appear as if we are perfect and Holy because Jesus puts His work and His person on us. The Epiphany of Jesus at the Jordan River to be Baptized by John has become for us the wonder and the blessing of faith.

THEME OF THE DAY:

The Baptism Of Our Lord

INTROIT—(Isaiah 42:1a;) Psalm 2:7-11, 12a

(Isaiah 42 is the historic Old Testament Lesson for today. We changed it in the 2006 Hymnal.) There are four Servant Songs in Isaiah. This is the first. In it, the One to be born into the world is shown as the One Who will suffer for His people. Psalm 2 was written by Ezra to introduce us to the Son of God, the King of kings. We sang the first part of this Psalm on Christmas Eve.

COLLECT

The Baptism and anointing of Jesus were done for our benefit. Jesus as the innocent and sinless one needed neither. In accepting both the Baptism and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Christ made it possible for our flesh to receive both the Baptism and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which imparts into us (personally) His work of faithfulness. In the water and Word of our Baptism His faithfulness becomes our faith

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Genesis 1:1-5

It is important to your salvation that you accept that God created the world in six, twenty-four hour days. Here is Jeffrey Kloha, to explain: "In the science vs faith controversy...If God is not powerful enough to create the world, then neither is He powerful enough to redeem. If no Creator, then no Savior, and no Spirit...But with the Creator comes salvation, wholeness, restoration, new creation. Genesis 1 puts us in our place. And what a 'good' place it is."

GRADUAL—Psalm 117:1-2a, 96:8

Psalm 117 (a two verse Psalm) is a general song of praise for all God has done for us. Psalm 96 was sung as the Arc was moved into Jerusalem. It looks beyond that event to the reign of the Christ and especially when the Gentiles will join in the celebration of the kingdom.

EPISTLE LESSON—Romans 6:1-11

Paul brings the truth of both Law and Gospel to bear on the daily life of the believer. He addresses the practical problems of daily life with the question of following in the footsteps of Christ. The Law makes us a prisoner of the law. If we sin we prove to whom we belong. If we go on sinning after we have understood the wonder of the payment, the atonement made for us by Christ, (and given to us in the water and the Word of our Baptism,) then we show ourselves not to be children of God but still slaves of sin; the world, Satan and our sinful flesh. We are in a relationship with God, and our sin shows that we are putting others in the place of God. We are Baptized, Christ died to make us clean, we have been raised above sin, so just stop it.