

for us it is the hand of rescue in the water and Word of our Baptism. The Holy Spirit filled Jesus with power for His mission. In our Baptism God in the person of the Holy Spirit fills us with power to believe in Jesus. In the Baptism of Jesus, God acknowledged Jesus and Jesus acknowledged us. Jesus consented to the Baptism to make it something we can go through. Before our Baptism we are helpless sinners. After our Baptism we emerge in Christ, as the redeemed. We come out of the water looking as if we are Christ (because we have participated in His activity.) The power in the water is put there by Christ.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

④ We bless You, O God, for the Revelation of Your will and wisdom in the life of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. From the day of His birth, to the day of His Baptism You declared Him to be Your Only Begotten Son, our Savior.

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 in us; a 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 as You directed and led Your Holy Son Jesus. Give us grace, as parents and adults in a position of guidance, 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.

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 know 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. Help, heal and strengthen them, and in all things give us the assurance of Your care, 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.**)

All these things, our Eternal Father, in fellowship with Your Son, we bring to You in prayer.

© Amen.

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Chant Tone



Introit

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 ref | uge 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.

(Antiphon, Isaiah 42:1a;
Psalm 2:7-11, 12c)

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.

Gradual

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 concern to establish justice on the Earth. We thank You for sending Your Son as a servant, our Lord Jesus Christ, into the world, to bring justice to all the people of the world. We thank You for identifying Him as Your beloved Son by anointing Him with the Holy Spirit and power at His Baptism. For revealing Yourself 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. 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. When John began to preach in the wilderness the crowds came to hear. After John baptized Jesus, the crowds were a witness to the anointing of Jesus into His threefold office as Prophet, Priest and King. We come today in the crowds that follow the light of Jesus,. He comes to speak of our future in His kingdom, accomplished in His sacrifice. As we ponder this great work through all the lessons in the Epiphany Season, we begin first with the Baptism of Jesus. This first event in the ministry of Jesus was done with us in mind and for our benefit. Jesus was the perfect man. He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness for us.

THEME OF THE DAY:

The Servant Is God

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Isaiah 42:1a;) Psalm 2:7-11, 12c
Isaiah 42:1 is from the Old Testament Lesson. 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 was done for our favor and benefit. Jesus as the innocent and sinless one needed neither. In accepting the Baptism and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Christ made it possible for our flesh to receive them. His faithfulness imparted to us as faith.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 42:1-9

There are four "Servant Songs," in Isaiah. This is the first. The One to be born into the world is shown as the One who will suffer for His people. Things are done to Him that are an insult to the Servant. These were necessary to show that He was able to defeat sin and Satan in our flesh. The people at the time of Christ expected the Messiah to be a military leader. This is surprising because Isaiah presented Him as never even raising His voice. Isaiah is a commentary on faithfulness to God and the will of God that will be shown and proven by the Servant. What we never accomplished the Servant made real for our life. We receive His suffering and death; as a gift of faith, in the water and Word of our Baptism.

GRADUAL—Psalm 117:1-2a, 96:8

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

EPISTLE LESSON—Romans 6:1-11

Paul brought the truth of both Law and Gospel to bear on the daily life of believers. He addressed the practical problems of daily life. The Law makes us a prisoner of the law. If we sin we prove to whom we belong. If we continue sinning after we have understood the wonder of the payment; the atonement made for us by Christ, given to us in the water and the Word of our Baptism, 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, we are Baptized, Christ died to make us clean, we have been raised above sin, so just stop it.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 3:13-17

In Medieval art, our Lord's Baptism often has a hand reaching down from Heaven to bless and to equip Jesus. For Him it was just a helping hand,