

as if He was in need of repentance and to cure His sin needed to be Baptized by John. John tells us the danger of refusing Baptism and then Jesus was lumped in with "all the people" in the water of His Baptism. The voice from Heaven showed us that it was in fact Jesus taking on the water that gave power to the water. Jesus by touching the water, Jesus by having the water poured across Him established that the washing of the flesh, in the Word of God was enough to effect salvation. The display of the Trinity in His Baptism showed that God is One will and essence, while working within the God head as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ O Lord God, Father in Heaven, Who in the sending of Your Son Jesus Christ did in a wonderful manner give Your Love to us and show Your great kindness. We thank You for this marvelous gift and for the promise that through His name whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. We further thank and praise You for the work of Your Son. In accepting Baptism from John, He placed the power into the water and Word or our Baptism.

We ask You to give us the fullness of His grace, that we may understand Your glory and truth in Him. Help us to receive Him into our hearts in faith, so that, believing in Him as Your perfect revelation, and trusting Him as our only and perfect Savior, we may have power to become Your eternal sons and heirs according to the assurance of eternal life. Grant us the work of Your Holy Spirit that we may be guided by the light of Jesus Christ in all wisdom, counsel, and understanding, that our path may be clear, and that we may walk in obedience to His commandments, teachings, and example.

Extend Your dominion over all lands and nations, and give righteous wisdom to all who rule, so that people everywhere may be governed in peace, justice, and mercy. In all homes, give parents grace and wisdom to bring up their children in the knowledge of their Lord, which is the beginning of all wisdom. In all schools, grant teachers such knowledge as will direct them to the truth as it is in Christ our Lord. Teach us that we may serve You wherever we are employed.

Be with all who travel, with all in peril of body or soul, with all who are imprisoned, with all who face temptation, grant them a sure sense of Your presence and enable them in all things to rejoice in the name of Your Son.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

In these and in all other things in which we stand in need, give Your help and mercy, O Father. All this we pray in the name of Your beloved Son Jesus Christ.

© Amen.

THE 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 begotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,*

and the ends of the Earth your possession.

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.*
Blessed 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 beginning,*
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 forever.

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: O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ, we praise and adore You for choosing us in Him before the foundation of the world. We cannot understand how this is possible, but we believe it because of the clear testimony of Your Word. You destined us in Love to be Your children through Christ, according to the purpose of Your will. Empower us with Your Holy Spirit to bear witness, in word and deed, that the Light of salvation has come into the world. In the name of Him Whose Light still shines to all the world for the salvation of as many as will believe, we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

EPIPHANY (January 6) WAS THE END OF THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS. We have therefore entered into the season of the Epiphany, the appearance of Christ to the world. The Epiphany begins with the star which the Magi followed to find the appearance of the "King of the Jews," and ends in the Transfiguration the appearance of Jesus in His Divinity on the Mountain. Today we ponder the wonder of the Baptism of Jesus in which He established the power of our Baptism. Luther said, "I would not want God to speak to me...or appear to me, but I would want...[to] have proper respect and true appreciation...that I have been Baptized." (AE3:165) Through His Son, God intervened in our life, giving us faith and a knowledge of our salvation which we could not get from any other source. Thanks be to God for the birth of His Son to be our Savior and the grace of God which allowed us to become members of His eternal kingdom.

THEME OF THE DAY:

The Baptism of our Lord

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Isaiah 42:1a;) Psalm 2:7-11, 12c
(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 verse 7 on Christmas Eve.

COLLECT

The Baptism and anointing of Jesus was 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, Baptism and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to impart His faithfulness to us as faith.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 43:1-7

The traditional historic lesson for this day is Isaiah 42:1-7. Chapter 42 ends with a chastisement for Israel's apostasy. 43 begins with a promise that God, even in the face of that apostasy, will gather, "everyone who is called by My name." The obvious connection is in the great number of people who came to the river to be Baptized by John, even Jesus.

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 Ark 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 brought the truth of both Law and Gospel to bear on the daily life of the believer. He addressed 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.

GOSPEL—Luke 3:15-22

There is nothing sadder than the baptism of Jesus. It is heart renderingly cruel to know that Jesus submitted Himself to the humiliation of appearing