

**Welcome to  
A Service of the Word  
First Sunday of Epiphany  
*The Baptism of Christ***

12th January 2025

**The Greeting**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you,  
**and also with you.**

**Christ is made the sure foundation**

**Prayer of preparation**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Invitation to confession

Because God was merciful,  
he saved us through the water of rebirth  
and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit.

But through sin,  
we have fallen away from our baptism.

Let us return to the Lord  
and renew our faith in his promises by confessing our sins in  
penitence.

*Titus 3.5*

## Confession

**Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have wandered and strayed from your ways  
like lost sheep.**

**We have followed too much the devices and desires  
of our own hearts.**

**We have offended against your holy laws.**

**We have left undone those things**

**that we ought to have done;**

**and we have done those things**

**that we ought not to have done;**

**and there is no health in us.**

**But you, O Lord,**

**have mercy upon us sinners.**

**Spare those who confess their faults.**

**Restore those who are penitent,  
according to your promises  
declared to mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
And grant, O most merciful Father,  
for his sake,  
that we may live a disciplined,  
righteous and godly life,  
to the glory of your holy name.  
Amen.**

### **Absolution**

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive us our sins  
and make us holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Readings**

**Isaiah 43. 1 – 7 or Acts 8.14–17**

and

**Luke 3.15 – 17, 21, 22**

*At the end:*

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Sermon

### Amazing grace

#### Profession of faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.  
We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*These responses may be used:*

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,  
**accept our prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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.**

**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.**

## The Collect

*The Collect is said and the people respond:*

**Amen.**

## Notices

**I will sing the wondrous story & Before the throne**

**of God above**

## The Blessing

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 ...

**One more step along the world I go**

## The Dismissal

One in heart and one in mind,  
and empowered by the Spirit,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**

## **Exit music: River of Life**

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