

12 January 2025
THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST
(THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY)



Collect and Readings for the Holy Communion

COLLECT

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
didst reveal him to be thy Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant that we, being born again by water and the Spirit,
may be faithful to our calling as thine adopted children;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

EPISTLE Acts 8. 14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus).

Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

(for those who are worshipping at home online)

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
May I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.