

## **Sunday 9th January – The Baptism of Christ**

### **The Collect**

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

### **Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7**

Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth – everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

### **Psalm 29**

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, \*ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; \*  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; \*  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; \*the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; \*the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf \*and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;  
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; \*the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare; \*  
in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'

The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood; \*  
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to his people; \*  
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

### **New Testament Reading: Acts 8:14-17**

<sup>14</sup>When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup>The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup>(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup>Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

### **Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

(In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance.) <sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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.'

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>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.'