



USC Caruso  
Catholic Center

## Baptism of the Lord

### Family Prayer Service

**Presider:** In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

**All:** I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
(striking your breast, say:)  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
(Then continue with:)  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**Opening Prayer:**

**Presider:**

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen**

## A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

### *Isaiah 55:1-11*

Thus says the LORD:

All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David. As I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of nations, so shall you summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

*Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)*

**R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

**R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.

**R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

**R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

## A Reading from the First Letter of John:

*1 John 5:1-9*

Beloved:

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one who testifies, and the Spirit is truth. So there are three that testify, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and the three are of one accord. If we accept human testimony, the testimony of God is surely greater. Now the testimony of God is this, that he has testified on behalf of his Son.

The Word of the Lord

**Alleluia**

*see John 1:29*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

John saw Jesus approaching him and said: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Mark:**

*Mark 1:7-11*

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord

**Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:**  
**by Fr. Joe Kim, OFM Conv.**

As Catholics, we are so familiar with the sacrament of baptism that we tend to associate the baptism of Jesus with the same familiarity. It may become too familiar that we do not come to appreciate this amazing feast we celebrate today - but something extraordinary occurred this day! If nothing else, what should signal to us is the fact this is the first time in scripture and all of human history that God manifests Himself to us as the trinity of persons: Jesus, the Son coming to be baptized; the Holy Spirit, descending like a dove; and the Father, claiming Jesus as His beloved Son. Sit with that for a moment – God truly reveals Himself as He truly is – a relationship of perfect love.

This moment is a prefigurement of what Jesus has come to do for us. To bring us new life! The one who was sinless, who had no need of baptism, was baptized in the baptism of sinners (a sign of repentance of sin and a commitment to live the covenant). It pre-figures the cross: the one who was sinless and did not deserve death was put to death reserved for the worst of sinners. And yet, what follows afterwards for both events: Jesus wins for us and gives us new and everlasting life. New life! By the cross, new life through the resurrection. By baptism, now a sacrament of grace through Jesus' baptism, brings a new life of grace. Not simply a symbol or sign of repentance, but true forgiveness of sin and rebirth as children of God. Coming out of the water, sin is put to an end and washed away, reborn as God's sons and daughters. The Holy Spirit descends upon us and enters our life, filling us with the gifts and graces that God bestows to us and what we need for this new life and vocation. God the Father claims us as his beloved son or daughter – precious with value beyond compare. This feast of the Baptism of the Lord is the Church's celebration of this new life of sacramental grace. This life of grace that is real, that transforms us, and unites us to the love and true presence of God.

**The sacramental principle of the Church is this: “that what is signified through signs, we truly receive in grace and nature.” What other gifts have you received through the sacrament of baptism that you may fully recognize? What about the other sacraments?**

**More fully recognizing the gifts of grace bestowed upon you, how should you/how will you live this reality in your life?**

**In what ways will you invite others to both receive and live this gift?**

**Nicene Creed:**

**ALL:** I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(bow)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

(raise from bow)

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen

**Presider:** To God the Giver of life and Author of all holiness, let us offer our prayers:

**Intercessions:**

That, through our work and worship together, our parish community may be a light to our world:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

That those who proclaim the gospel through their ministries of teaching, healing, and charity may bring sight to those who are blind to the life of God and liberation to those imprisoned by darkness:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

That the nations and peoples of the world may work together for the victory of “justice”:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

That we may be always faithful to our covenant with God, a covenant sealed in the waters of our baptism:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

That the sick and the suffering, the poor and the forgotten, the lost and the troubled may find hope in the “good news of the peace”:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

That those who have died may rise to the new life of the Risen Christ:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

**Presider:**

Lord of all creation, you have raised us to new life through water and the Spirit. May your Spirit of justice and peace always rest upon us so that we may dedicate ourselves to the work and prayers we offered. In Jesus’ name we pray.

**Our Father:**

**Presider:** At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All:**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

Amen

**Sign of Peace:**

**Presider:** Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen

**Presider:**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All:**

And with your spirit.

**Presider:**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

**Spiritual Communion:**

**All:** I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.

**Closing Prayer:**

**Presider:**

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen