

St John the Baptist Wittersham and St Mary the Virgin Ebony  
Recorded Eucharist for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany – The  
Baptism of Christ

(Excerpt from Times and Seasons), The Epiphany ('manifestation') is an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. In this perspective, Epiphany-tide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the festal cycle ends only with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas).

Welcome to our service of Eucharist recorded at  
Wittersham Church.

You may like to have a piece of bread and a sip of wine to join in with the communion that Christ invites us to. But first let us keep a moment of silence as we remember God's presence with us now.

Hymn  
Be Still my Soul

Be still my soul the Lord is on your side  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain  
Leave to your God to order and provide

In every change He faithful will remain  
Be still my soul your best, your heavenly friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end

Be still my soul, your God will undertake  
To guide the future as he has in the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,  
All now mysterious shall be clear at last  
Be still my soul the tempests still obey  
His voice who ruled them once on Galilee

Be still my soul the hour is hastening on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord  
When disappointment grief and fear are gone  
Sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored  
Be still my soul when change and tears are past  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last

Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the  
Lord has risen upon you.

Grace. Mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord  
Jesus Christ be with you

***We pray together***

**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**

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.  
Let us confess our sins.

*Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts:*

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:*

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

*Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word:*

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### ***The President prays***

*May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to  
himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may  
behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus  
Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### *The Gloria*

*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on  
earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for  
your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

*The Collect (the prayer of the people)*

*Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son; may we recognise him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour Amen*

*Song*

*Spirit of the living God,  
Fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
Fall afresh on me.*

*The Gospel Reading*

**GOSPEL READING MARK 1.4-11**

**Mark 1: 4 - 11**

<sup>4</sup>And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were

baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup>John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." <sup>9</sup>At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

This is the gospel of the Lord

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again 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. We 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 worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Everlasting God, we give thanks for this new day and as we gather together to focus on the Baptism of our Lord, let us remember our own Baptisms and our calling to be Christians. May we be filled with such joy as we believe in you that our hearts overflow with love for you and for all who we meet along our journey and help us to understand the mystery of the baptism of your Son. May we walk in your way, live our life for you and be mindful of your presence day by day.

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

Creator God, we remember all countries where there is war or conflict and pray that you will look mercifully upon the sufferings of the people involved.

We pray for our Queen and Government and the leaders in the rest of the world. Sharpen their consciences and give them the courage to make wise decisions, making wrongs right and meeting the needs of all who suffer especially as the Pandemic continues worldwide.

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

Father God, we pray today for our friends, our families and our Christian community, that united by our common baptism we may always welcome the newcomer, the stranger and all who are vulnerable.

We also remember today the teachers and all involved in education praying that their efforts will be justly rewarded and that students will achieve their full potential despite the challenges at this time.

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

Loving God we pray for those who face difficulties in their personal lives. We raise before you all who are sick, the bereaved, those with problems in their families, in their relationships, in their neighbourhoods or in their workplace. Give them a patient faith in their troubles and the knowledge that you share their sufferings with them.

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

Mighty God, Lord of unending being, we pray for those whose earthly lives have ended. We remember those whose anniversary of their passing falls at this time and for the souls of all who have passed away recently. We give thanks for lives well-lived and for happy memories. May they find rest in the eternal joy of heaven and let all who mourn their passing find comfort and peace.

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

Faithful God, we thank you for making us your children, for feeding us with the spiritual food which satisfies our longings and for the promise that you listen to our supplications and answer our requests.

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

## THE PEACE

We are the body of Christ. In the one body we were all baptised into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. The peace of the Lord be always with you, Please share a sign of peace with those who are with you at home.

## PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Let us pray. Open the heavens, Lord our God, and send your transforming Spirit on us and on these gifts. May we who are baptised into Christ be ready to share his cup of suffering and strengthened to serve him for ever Amen.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (A)

The Lord be with you

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present

in our midst. In the coming of the magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and say

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that comes. in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise: Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

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. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world. God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION God's holy gifts for God's holy people. Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

If you are worshipping with us online, I invite you to make your spiritual ` communion, praying that by God's grace, united with all the baptised and with Christ who gave his life for us, you may be filled with his indwelling presence. As you take your bread and wine please say: O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son, we offer you praise and thanksgiving. Come Lord Jesus, dwell in us and send your Holy Spirit that we may be filled with your presence. Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: grant us thy peace.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER Let us pray.

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We thank you Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples. Amen.

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh.

Come then and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every Christian breast,  
and furnished for so great a guest!

Yea, let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward.

Without thy grace our souls must fade  
and wither like a flower decayed

Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore,  
and make us rise, to fall no more.

Once more upon thy people shine  
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent sets thy people free,  
whom, with the Father, we adore,  
and Spirit blest, for evermore.

Words: Charles Coffin, Tr John Chandler Music: Adapted  
from Musicalisches Hand-Buch

THE BLESSING: Christ the Son of God perfect in you  
the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the  
good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and  
remain with you and those you love now and always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of  
Christ Amen

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