

# The Baptism of our Lord

*First Sunday after Epiphany*

*10 January 2021 Evening Prayer*

*Preacher and Leader: Christopher Waterhouse*

## Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, who anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son: inspire us, your children, who are born again of water and the Spirit, to surrender our lives to your service, that we may rejoice to be called your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Psalm 2

<sup>1</sup> Why are the nations in tumult:

**and why do the peoples cherish a vain dream?**

<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers conspire together:

**against the Lord and against his anointed, saying,**

<sup>3</sup> 'Let us break their bonds asunder:

**let us throw off their chains from us.'**

<sup>4</sup> He that dwells in heaven shall laugh them to scorn:

**the Lord will hold them in derision.**

<sup>5</sup> Then will he speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury:

**'I, the Lord, have set up my king on Zion my holy hill.'**

<sup>6</sup> I will announce the Lord's decree, that which he has spoken:

**'You are my son, this day have I begotten you.'**

<sup>7</sup> 'Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance:

**the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession.**

<sup>8</sup> 'You may break them with a rod of iron:

**and shatter them in pieces like a potter's vessel.'**

<sup>9</sup> Now therefore be wise, O kings:

**be advised, you that are judges of the earth.**

<sup>10</sup> Serve the Lord with awe, and govern yourselves in fear and trembling:

**lest he be angry, and you perish in your course.**

<sup>11</sup> For his wrath is quickly kindled:

**blessed are those that turn to him for refuge.**

## 1st Reading Ezekiel 47.1-12

Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was flowing from below the threshold of the temple towards the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. <sup>2</sup> Then he brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me round on the outside to the outer gate that faces towards the east; and the water was coming out on the south side.

<sup>3</sup> Going on eastwards with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits, and then led me through the water; and it was ankle-deep. <sup>4</sup> Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was up to the waist. <sup>5</sup> Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. <sup>6</sup> He said to me, 'Mortal, have you seen this?'

Then he led me back along the bank of the river. <sup>7</sup> As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on one side and on the other. <sup>8</sup> He said to me, 'This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. <sup>9</sup> Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. <sup>10</sup> People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eglaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. <sup>11</sup> But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. <sup>12</sup> On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.'

## 2nd Reading John 1.19-34

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' <sup>23</sup> He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' <sup>26</sup> John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' <sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' <sup>32</sup> And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." <sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'