

11 January 2015

Baptism of Christ

Collect of the Day

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.

First Reading

Genesis 1.1-5

¹ In the beginning when God created the heavens
and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and
darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind
from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then
God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. ⁴
And God saw that the light was good; and God
separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called
the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And
there was evening and there was morning, the first
day. (NRSV)

Second Reading

Acts 19.1-7

¹ While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed
through the inland regions and came to Ephesus,
where he found some disciples. ² He said to them,
'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you
became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have
not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' ³ Then
he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They
answered, 'Into John's baptism.' ⁴ Paul said, 'John
baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling
the people to believe in the one who was to
come after him, that is, in Jesus.' ⁵ On hearing this,
they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
⁶ When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy
Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues
and prophesied – ⁷ altogether there were about
twelve of them. (NRSV)

Gospel

Mark 1.4-11

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole
Judean countryside and all the people of
Jerusalem were going out to him, and were
baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing
their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's
hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he
ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, 'The
one who is more powerful than I is coming after
me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the
thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with
water; but he will baptize you with the Holy
Spirit.'

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of
Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water,
he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit
descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice
came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased.' (NRSV)

Post Communion Prayer

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.