

**Blofield Benefice**

**A Service for the  
Season of Epiphany**

**(Baptism of Christ)**



The ceiling mosaic in the Baptistery of Neon. Ravenna, Italy. Built around 6th century A.D.

## Preparation

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.  
**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting  
your name is proclaimed in all the world.  
**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

## Opening prayer

Lord God, you sent the Lord Jesus Christ to be  
the light of our world.  
As he shines in our hearts  
may he banish everything that obscures your goodness  
and darkens our lives.  
Illuminate our worship, with the light of your presence  
and reveal your glory, in our hearts as we worship.

*All*

**Amen**

## Hymn

Awake, awake: fling off the night!  
for God has sent a glorious light;  
and we who live in Christ's new day  
must works of darkness put away.

Awake and rise, with love renewed,  
and with the Spirit's power endued.  
The light of life in us must glow,  
And fruits of truth and goodness show

Awake and rise up from the dead,  
and Christ his light on you will shed  
Its power will wrong desires destroy  
And your whole nature fill with joy

Then sing with praise and use each day;  
Give thanks for everything always.  
Lift up your hearts; with one accord  
Praise God through Jesus Christ our Lord

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### Confession

By the mercies of God,  
let us confess our sins and present our bodies as a living  
sacrifice,  
holy and acceptable to him,  
which is our spiritual worship.

*Romans 12.1*

**All**

**Lord God,  
we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from  
our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore to us the joy of your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw us to himself,  
that we may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
and be cleansed from all our sins  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

The Collect

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

Amen

The Psalm – Psalm 89.19-29

Once you spoke in a vision,  
to your faithful people you said:  
'I have bestowed strength on a warrior;  
I have raised up a young man from among the people.  
<sup>20</sup> I have found David my servant;  
with my sacred oil I have anointed him.  
<sup>21</sup> My hand will sustain him;  
surely my arm will strengthen him.  
<sup>22</sup> The enemy will not get the better of him;  
the wicked will not oppress him.  
<sup>23</sup> I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down his adversaries.  
<sup>24</sup> My faithful love will be with him,  
and through my name his horn will be exalted.

- <sup>25</sup> I will set his hand over the sea,  
his right hand over the rivers.
- <sup>26</sup> He will call out to me, “You are my Father,  
my God, the Rock my Saviour.”
- <sup>27</sup> And I will appoint him to be my firstborn,  
the most exalted of the kings of the earth.
- <sup>28</sup> I will maintain my love to him for ever,  
and my covenant with him will never fail.
- <sup>29</sup> I will establish his line for ever,  
his throne as long as the heavens endure.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

A hymn is sung

- 1        O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end,  
be thou for ever near me,  
my master and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.
- 2        O let me feel thee near me;  
the world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me,  
around me, and within;  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,  
and shield my soul from sin.

- 3      O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will:  
O speak to re-assure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.
- 4      O let me see thy footmarks,  
and in them plant mine own;  
my hope to follow duly  
is in thy strength alone;  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
uphold me to the end;  
and then in heaven receive me,  
my Saviour and my Friend.

John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)  
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## The Reading   The Gospel of Mark.1.1-10

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

It is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way” –  
“a voice of one calling in the desert,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”

And so John came, baptising in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they

were baptised by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

*After the reading this response is us*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Sermon**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

**The Intercessions**

**The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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

## A hymn is sung

- 1 Take my life and let it be  
all you purpose, Lord, for me;  
consecrate my passing days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of your love;  
take my feet, and let them run  
with the news of victory won.
- 3 Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips, let them proclaim  
all the beauty of your name.
- 4 Take my wealth - all I possess,  
make me rich in faithfulness;  
take my mind that I may use  
every power as you shall choose.
- 5 Take my motives and my will,  
all your purpose to fulfil;  
take my heart - it is your own,  
it shall be your royal throne.
- 6 Take my love - my Lord, I pour  
at your feet its treasure-store;  
take myself, and I will be  
yours for all eternity.

## Concluding prayer

Heavenly Father,

May the light of your presence shine brightly upon us.

May the flame of faith continue to burn brightly  
within us.

And may we in turn, by the power of your Spirit, bring  
your light to others.

To the glory of your name.

**Amen**