

First Sunday after the Epiphany, Year B

Baptism of the Lord

Color: White
Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

- [Genesis 1:1-5](#) (*God creates light*)
- [Psalm 29](#) (*The majesty of God: like a voice on the waters*)
- [Acts 19:1-7](#) (*Baptism in the name of Jesus*)
- [Mark 1:4-11](#) (*Jesus is baptized*)

Themes: Light, Creation, Baptism, Holy Spirit, Salvation

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to Hymnary.org, a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the morning's scriptures or themes.

Arise, Your Light Has Come (<i>FESTAL SONG</i>)	Genesis, Mark
Baptized in Water (<i>BUNESSAN</i>)	Acts, Mark
Gather Us In (<i>GATHER US IN</i>)	Acts
God of Creation, All-Powerful (<i>SLANE</i>)	Genesis
God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens (<i>HOLY MANNA</i>)	Genesis
I Sing the Mighty Power of God (<i>ELLACOMBE; FOREST GREEN</i>)	Genesis
I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry (<i>WATERLIFE</i>)	Acts, Mark
Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song (<i>BRIDEGROOM</i>)	Mark
Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works (<i>LACQUIPARLE</i>)	Genesis
Morning Has Broken (<i>BUNESSAN</i>)	Genesis
Name of All Majesty (<i>MAJESTAS</i>)	Acts, Mark
Shine, Jesus, Shine (<i>SHINE</i>)	Genesis, Acts, Mark
Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud (<i>ABERYSTWYTH</i>)	Genesis, Acts, Mark
To God Be the Glory (<i>TO GOD BE THE GLORY</i>)	Genesis, Psalms, Acts, Mark
When Jesus Came to Jordan (<i>COMPLAINER</i>)	Mark

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, D = Difficult

As Jesus Walked Into the Stream – ME Mark
Susan Borwick
© 2008, MorningStar Music, 50-2003
2-Part (Any), Keyboard, opt. C or B-flat Inst., Cello

The Baptism of the Lord – E.....Acts, Mark
Charles Callahan
© 1990, MorningStar Music, 50-2003
Unison/Descant, Organ

Come, Holy Spirit – MActs, Mark
VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS/Michael Mauldin, arr.
© 1999, Kjos Music, Ed. 8897
SATB, Piano

God, You Made All Things for Singing – MPsalms
UNION SEMINARY/John Ferguson, arr.
© 2002, MorningStar Music, MSM-50-8503
SATB, Organ

I Sing the Greatness of Our God – MD..... Genesis
Fred Bock, quoting *FOREST GREEN*
© 1970, Fred Bock Music, G0120
SATB, Organ, opt. C-Instrument

I've Just Come From the Fountain – MD Mark
Negro Spiritual/Robert Hobby, arr.
© 2000, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-5919-6
SATB, a cappella

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry – E Mark
PUER NOBIS/Donald Busarow, arr.
© 1984, Concordia Publishing House, 98-2639
SAB, Organ, Oboe

See This Wonder In the Making – E.....Acts, Mark
TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA/Carl Schalk, arr.
© 1988, MorningStar Music, 50-8400
Unison, Organ, opt. C-Instrument

Waters of Creation – E Genesis
RESTORATION/Austin Lovelace, arr.
© 2004, GIA Publications, G-5642
SATB, Keyboard

You Have Put On Christ – EActs, Mark
Howard Hughes
© 1977, GIA Publications, G-2283
Unison/2-Part, Solo, Organ, 2 C-Inst., Perc., Bells

– YOUTH and CHILDREN –

I Sing the Mighty Power of God – E Genesis
FOREST GREEN/Michael Bedford, arr.
© 2000, Choristers Guild, CGA884
Unison/2-Part, Organ, Flute, Oboe, opt. Handbells

You Are God's Child – E.....Acts, Mark
John Horman
© 1991, Choristers Guild, CGA541
Unison/2-Part (opt. SATB), Keyboard

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine*

— NEGRO SPIRITUAL

Of course the festival of rain cannot be stopped, even in the city. The woman from the delicatessen scampers along the sidewalk with a newspaper over her head. The streets, suddenly washed, become transparent and alive, and the noise of traffic becomes a plashing of fountains. One would think that the urban man in a rainstorm would have to take account of nature in its wetness and freshness, its baptism and its renewal.

—THOMAS MERTON, *When the Trees Say Nothing*

*You poured your spirit into me;
I knew you as I know myself.
Speaking waters touched me
from your fountain, the source of life.*

— from ODES OF SOLOMON (1ST OR 2ND Century, C.E.),
in *The Enlightened Heart*, Stephen Mitchell, tr.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise be to Christ, who rises from the tomb and rises from the waters,
And calls us to worship with all that we have and all that we are.
Praise be to Christ, who stands with us in the waters of baptism,
Cleanses us, blesses us, and calls us to live lives of hope and light.

— Daniel E. Glaze*

PASTORAL PRAYER

Creator God, when everything first began, water became a symbol of refreshing, of washing away, of renewing. Through the waters of creation, you brought forth abundant life. We have gathered this day to remember Jesus' baptism, how when he came up out of the water your Spirit proclaimed that He was your beloved Son in whom you were very well pleased. Our spirits resound with that proclamation. In His baptism, Jesus' ministry was initiated. He dedicated his life to you completely and without reservation. Help us to dedicate our lives to you, to offer our best for you, to be of service to you by serving in your world. As we have lifted before you the names of people near and dear to us who need your healing touch and your tender mercies, we have also lifted ourselves up as people in need of your grace. Our world is in the midst of strife— wars, oppression, famine, hunger, alienation, situations in which we have abused the world and each other. Heal us and this world, Lord. Renew us with your life-giving waters and re-affirm our baptisms as your children. Let us go forth to be people of peace and mercy. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

— NANCY C. TOWNLEY, MinistryMatters.com

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UNISON ASSURANCE OF PARDON / PASSING OF THE PEACE

We have confessed our sins, our shortcomings, and our misgivings before God and one another. Just as God forgives us, let us forgive one another. Amen.

— DEG

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our minds, startle our hearts, and illuminate our understanding as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed. Amen.

— DEG

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*Effortlessly,
Love flows from God into man,
Like a bird
Who rivers the air
Without moving her wings.
Thus we move in
His world
One in body and soul,
Though outwardly separate in form.
As the Source strikes the note,
Humanity sings—
The Holy Spirit is our harpist,
And all strings
Which are touched in Love
Must sound.*

— MECHTHILD OF MAGDEBURG

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Creating God, with your voice, you brought forth light out of darkness. Creative Spirit, with your voice, you spoke words of blessing at baptism. Compassionate Christ, with your voice, you call us to follow you in love and service to a world in need. Amen.

— DEG

*Thanks to Dr. Daniel E. Glaze for his contributions to this week's prayers and liturgies.

Warren Howell, Editor