

# THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



## The Beloved Son

Father God,  
you made known the Sonship of Jesus  
at the moment of his baptism  
and announced to all  
that you were pleased with him.  
Certain of your affirmation,  
and living in the power of the Spirit,  
Jesus would have the fervor to  
announce your kingdom:  
compassion to forgive sins, heal the  
sick, and raise the dead;  
and courage to face abandonment,  
betrayal, and death.  
Awaken us from our indifference  
to the total self-giving of Christ.  
Change our passivity to passion  
so we might have the fervor,  
compassion, and courage  
to follow in his footsteps.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Sunday, January 13, 2019**  
**Baptized and Sent Forth**

*Today's Readings: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22.* At Jesus' birth, the sky fills with angels singing his glory and a star to guide kings from a far-off land to adore and bring him precious gifts. After those marvelous events, Jesus spends thirty years leading a quiet life in Nazareth. In God's time, he comes on the scene while John is baptizing and insists that John baptize him. In that moment the Holy Trinity is revealed, as the Spirit of God descends on Jesus in the form of a dove, and the Father's voice from heaven claims Jesus as his beloved Son. Blessed by the Father and filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus embarks on his public ministry. His mandate is to bring justice to the nations: to be "a light for the nations, / To open the eyes of the blind, / to bring out prison-

ers from confinement, / and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness."

At our Baptism, the Holy Trinity is present as God the Father frees us from sin and gives us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and we become a new creation clothed in Christ and enlightened by him. We are invited to participate in the very life of the Trinity! The rite of Baptism gives us our mandate: to "walk always as a child of the light." Talk with your family or a friend about what those words might mean for the baptized. What is the work of children of the light? Talk with God about what those words might mean in your life. What is the particular work to which God is calling you?



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