

Children's liturgy – The Baptism of the Lord (Year B)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: white

Props: baptismal candle, water, white shawl

Song suggestions: Come to the water (408, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear about Jesus's baptism in the river Jordan. Baptism is the way that we are welcomed into the Church. Let's think a bit more about all this today.

Opening prayer: God of light, you sent your Spirit down upon your Son Jesus at his baptism. Send us your Spirit too, so that we may be filled with the courage to do all that you ask of us. Amen.

First reading (optional): Isaiah 55:1-11

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6 r. 3

Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

[John the Baptist] announced to the people, "The man who will come after me is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to bend down and untie his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Not long afterward Jesus came from Nazareth in the province of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw heaven opening and the Spirit coming down on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you."

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below)*

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

Today we hear how John baptised Jesus in the River Jordan. What happened as Jesus was baptised?

The Holy Spirit came down and rested on him. And God spoke saying to Jesus, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

Who here has been baptised? Do you know?

Most of us are baptised when we are babies, so you might not remember it. Have you ever been to a baptism that you do remember? What happens at a baptism?

Talk the children through a baptism, the promises that are made on the child's behalf, pouring of water, anointing with oil, lighting of a candle etc.

Why do we get baptised?

Through baptism our sins are forgiven. It is also the way that we are welcomed as a member of the Church community – a big family that stretches all around the world. We are committed to God and to trying to live our lives the way that God wants us to.

How do you think God wants us to live our lives?

God calls us to be kind and generous, to share with others and forgive others and to try always to do what is right. God asks us to love our neighbour as ourselves.

It is not easy, but in the same way that the Holy Spirit came to Jesus when he was baptised, we are baptised with water and the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is there to help us when we find things difficult and to guide us to make the right choices.

We are all children of God, so how can we try to live our lives the way God wants us to in the coming week?

Intercessions *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

We pray together to God, who loves us all:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may continue to spread Jesus's message of love for all people. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all God's children, especially those of us who are poor: that we may find hope of a world free from poverty. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may do all that we can to live the way that God wants us to – sharing with others and standing up for what is right. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Loving God, you call us by our name and we are your children. Help us to share your message of love and hope with others, and to make the world a fairer place for all to live. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw on the back how they will try to live their lives as God wants them to in the coming week.

At our baptism we are given a name. You could spend time either asking the children to write out their names on labels to wear, or simply calling their names out as a celebration of their unique place in God's family.

For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

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Create a big dove collage to represent the Holy Spirit and add on the things that the Holy Spirit brings to our lives both at the time of our baptism and beyond: courage, hope, joy, etc

Encourage the children to get their grown ups to show them their baptismal candle after the liturgy today, to light it and to say a prayer together for all God's children – our family around the world. And remind them to try this week to live their lives as God wants us to – with kindness and generosity, as we try to make the world a better place for all to live.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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