

The Baptism of Christ Reflection.
Luke 3.15-17, 21, 22.

Last week Fr David spoke of there being three Epiphanies after Christmas and this is the second one. Jesus asks John the Baptist to baptise him just like the other people. In Luke John does not protest as such but in Matthew's account he does, saying that Jesus should rather baptise him than he baptise Jesus.

By being baptised Jesus is grounding his human side by joining sinners who are being baptised rather than placing himself above them. He allowed himself to be numbered among sinners. He allowed himself to be numbered among sinners even though he was free of sin. He is following his Father's will which he will continue to do until the end. The Holy Spirit descends on Him and He is declared by his God to be his Son in whom he is well pleased. A sure revealing of who Jesus is.

Phil Baker



NEXT SUNDAY 12.01.2025 2nd Sunday of Epiphany
10.30am in the Hall

READINGS: OT Isaiah 62: 1-5
NT 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11
GOSPEL John 2: 1-11



CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

12th January 2025

Baptism of Christ

10.30am in the Hall

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

401 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

14 All heavens declares

451 Songs of thankfulness and praise

Tuesday 14th January

5pm Standing Committee

Wednesday 15th January

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 16th January

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter. 19 Maple Rd

Details from Jenny. 01392 498725

Friday 17th January

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



Collect

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. **Amen**

Isaiah 42: 1-7

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

Psalms 29

A Psalm of David.

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendour.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.
The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for ever.
May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Acts 8: 14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3: 15-17, 21, 22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a

dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Post Communion

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. **Amen**

NOTICES

Warm Space will return on Thursdays, from 3pm in the Hall. Tea, coffee and biscuits and a chance to meet other people. A start date will be announced once the administration has been completed. **Also there are more spaces for people to volunteer. See David or Ian.** Watch this space for details.

Parish Walk

What: Noticing Nature –Winter edition

When: **Saturday 25th January 11am–12noon**

Where: Meet outside St Thomas Church Hall. Come and join us for a gentle, guided walk around St Thomas Pleasure Ground that will help you slow down and notice the things around you as well as connect with your inner world. This walk will take place on paved paths with the option to go on grass. Bring clothing and footwear appropriate for the weather and meet at St Thomas Church Hall.

A new **West of the River** magazine is planned starting from April 2025. It is looking for volunteers to help produce the new Community owned print magazine. A variety of roles are available. A pre-launch meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st January at 6.30pm at Theatre Ali-bi, Emmanuel Road, EX4 1EJ