



Welcome

The Baptism of Christ

11 January 2026



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St. Paul's Covent Garden



actorschurch

Please switch off all mobile phones.

BEWARE: We do occasionally suffer from theft: take care of your belongings

Accessibility

Large Print versions of the Order of Service are available.

Gluten free wafers are available.

Hearing loop installed; collect a receiver from the back of church.

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We stand as the Altar Party enters and sing the hymn

**Come down, O love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour
glowing;
O comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame
bestowing.**

**2. O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat
consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my
path illuming.**

**3. Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner
clothing:
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps
with loathing.**

**4. And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human
telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his
dwelling.**

The Priest goes to his place and says:
Priest In the name of the Father, and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Priest The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

The priest introduces the service and then invites the candidate and his Godparents to come forward and addresses them saying:

Priest: Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.
People of God, will you welcome *this child* and uphold *him* in his new life in Christ?

All With the help of God, we will.

Priest: Parents and godparents, the Church receives *this child* with joy. Today we are trusting God for *his* growth in faith. Will you pray for *him*, draw *him* by your example into the community of faith and walk with *him* in the way of Christ?

P & G With the help of God, we will.

Priest: In baptism *this child* begins his journey in faith. You speak for *him* today. Will you care for *him*, and help *him* to take his place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

P & G With the help of God, we will.

Priest: In baptism God calls us to new life. We die with Christ to all that destroys, and rise to live with him for ever. Therefore I ask:

Priest Do you reject evil?

P & G I reject evil.

Priest And all its many forms?

P & G And all its many forms.

Priest And all its empty promises?

P & G And all its empty promises.

Priest Do you turn to Christ?

P & G I turn to Christ.

Priest And put your trust in him?

P & G And put my trust in him.

Priest And promise to follow him for ever?

P & G And promise to follow him for ever.

Priest Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of the cross.
Do not be ashamed of Christ.
You are his for ever.

**All Stand bravely with him.
Oppose the power of evil,
and remain his faithful
disciple to the end of your
life.**

Priest: May almighty God deliver you
from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of
his glory, and lead you in the
light and obedience of Christ.

All Amen.

*We sing the **Gloria**, which you will find on the
separate music sheet.*

*The prayer of the day – the **Collect** – is sung*

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.**

*We sit for the **first** and **second** readings.*

First Reading

Isaiah 42.1-9, read by Rob

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him
and he will bring justice to the nations.

He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.
A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smouldering wick he will not snuff
out.

In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;
he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.
In his law the islands will put their hope.”
This is what God the LORD says –
he who created the heavens and stretched
them out, who spread out the earth and
all that comes out of it, who gives breath
to its people, and life to those who walk
on it:

“I, the LORD, have called you in
righteousness; I will take hold of your
hand.

I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,
to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those
who sit in darkness.

“I am the LORD; that is my name!

I will not give my glory to another
or my praise to idols.

See, the former things have taken place,
and new things I declare;
before they spring into being
I announce them to you.”

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Acts 10.34-43, read by Tom

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realise
how true it is that God does not show
favouritism but accepts men from every
nation who fear him and do what is right.
You know the message God sent to the
people of Israel, telling the good news of
peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of

all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God

*We stand to sing the **hymn** and turn towards the Gospel book*

**Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**2. Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure;
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.**

**3. Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine;
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

**4. Breathe on me, breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.**

All remain standing (if able) as the Gospel is read

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Priest Hear the Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to
Matthew (3, 13-17)

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?”

Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.” Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

At the end:

Priest This is the Gospel of the
Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

*We sit for the **Sermon***

*The **Prayers of Intercession** follow*

At the end:

Priest Merciful Father,
**All accept these prayers for
the sake of your Son, our
Saviour, Jesus Christ,
Amen.**

We move to the Font, the Priest blesses the waters of Baptism and then says

Let us affirm our common faith in Jesus Christ. Do you believe in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All **I believe and trust in him.**
Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All **I believe and trust in him.**
Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

All **I believe and trust in him.**
This the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Priest N, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Priest Receive this light. This is to show that you have passed from darkness to light

All **Shine as a light in the world, to the glory of God the Father.**

Priest: May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All **Amen.**

Priest: Let us now pray for grace in guiding *this child* in the way of faith.

Faithful and loving God, bless those who care for *this child* and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith. Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love, and protect their home from all evil. Fill them with the light of your presence and establish them in the joy of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Priest introduces the **Peace**:*

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always

All **And also with you**

Priest Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We sing a **hymn** as the Altar is prepared for the **Eucharistic Prayer**. A **collection** is taken during the **hymn***

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**2. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**

3. Be thou my breastplate, my sword
for the fight;
be thou my whole armour, be thou
my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou
my strong tower:
**O raise thou me heavenward, great
Power of my power.**

4. Riches I heed not, nor man's
empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance now and
always;
be thou and thou only the first in my
heart:
**O sovereign of heaven, my treasure
thou art.**

5. High King of heaven, thou
heaven's bright sun,
**O grant me its joys after vict'ry is
won;
great heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O ruler of all.**

Priest Blessed are you Lord God of
all creation. Through your
goodness we have this bread
to offer, which earth has given
and human hands have made.
It will become for us the
bread of life.

All Blessed be God for ever
Priest Blessed are you Lord God of
all creation. Through your
goodness we have this wine
to offer. Fruit of the vine and
work of human hands, it will
become our spiritual drink
All Blessed be God for ever

Priest Pray my sisters and brothers
that our sacrifice may be
acceptable to God the
Almighty Father

**All May the Lord accept the
sacrifice at your hand, for
the praise and glory of his
name, for our good and
the good of all his Church.**

*The Priest adds the prayer over the gifts to which
we reply* **Amen**

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you.
Priest Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them to the Lord.
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God.
**All It is right to give thanks
and praise...**

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues until we sing
the **Sanctus** and **Benedictus** from the music
sheet. The **Eucharistic Prayer** continues
until...*

Priest: Great is the mystery of faith
**All: Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues until

Priest ...for ever and ever
All: Amen
**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**

Priest We break this bread to share
in the body of Christ
**All Though we are many we
are one body, because we
all share in one bread**

We sing the **Agnus Dei** from the music sheet.

Priest Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The congregation approaches the altar to receive Communion.

All those who are in good standing with their own Church are invited to receive Communion. Those who prefer to ask for a Blessing are invited to bow their heads at the Altar rail, or bring this booklet as a sign to the Priest.

Post Communion Prayers

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

We say together:

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son
Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls
and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Any Banns of marriage and notices are given.

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

The **Blessing** is given to which all reply: **Amen**
We sing the **hymn** and turn to face the West
End for the **dismissal**

**Crown him with many crowns,
the lamb upon his throne;
hark! how the heavenly anthem
drowns
all music but its own:
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**

**2. Crown him the virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies
won
which now his brow adorn:
fruit of the mystic rose,
as of that rose the stem;
the root whence mercy ever flows,
the babe of Bethlehem.**

**3. Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may
cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of Paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

**4. Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
Glassed in a sea of light,
where everlasting waves
reflect his throne - the infinite!
who lives - and loves - and saves.**

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

‘What’s On’ this week

Today

4pm Choral Evensong, *with the Choir of St. Paul’s*

Monday 12 January

10.00 Art Club – *all welcome*

Tuesday 13 January

5.30pm Tuesday@Actorschurch – *all welcome*

Wednesday 14 January

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

1.45pm Tea and cake – *all welcome*

Sunday 18 January

11.00 Parish Sung Eucharist

for the Second Sunday of Epiphany