

# Readings and Prayers for 10 January 2021: The Baptism of Christ

## Genesis 1:1-5

*The start of the account of Creation.*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

## Psalm 29

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;  
worship the LORD in holy splendour.  
<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the LORD, over mighty waters.  
<sup>4</sup> The voice of the LORD is powerful;  
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.  
<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.  
<sup>6</sup> He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.  
<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of  
fire.  
<sup>8</sup> The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.  
<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,  
and strips the forest bare;  
and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'  
<sup>10</sup> The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king for ever.  
<sup>11</sup> May the LORD give strength to his people!  
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

## Acts 19:1-7

*The early Church looks at what baptism means.*

<sup>1</sup> While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No,

we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' <sup>3</sup> Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' <sup>4</sup> Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— <sup>7</sup> altogether there were about twelve of them.

## Mark 1:4-11

*Jesus is baptised by John.*

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

## Collect

Heavenly Father,  
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:  
may we recognize him as our Lord  
and know ourselves to be your beloved  
children;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

## 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.