

La Côte Anglican Church
Epiphany – The Baptism of Christ

Welcome

The Greeting

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you
All and also with you.

Hymn – *From heaven you came helpless babe (Servant King)*

Prayer of Preparation

All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The 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.
All Amen.

First Reading

Genesis 1.1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the 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. ³Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

Hymn 84 *Breathe on me breath of God*

Gospel Reading

Mark 1.4-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And 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.

¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Offertory Hymn *Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire (118)*

Renewal of the Covenant

God made a covenant with the people of Israel, calling them to be a holy nation, chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love by finding delight in the law.

The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord, in his life, work, death and resurrection. In him all people may be set free from sin and its power, and united in love and obedience.

In this covenant God promises us new life in Christ. For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God.

We meet, therefore, as generations have met before us, to renew the covenant which bound them and binds us to God.

We make this covenant of God our own.

Prayers of Penitence

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

All God our Father,
long-suffering, full of grace and truth,
you create us from nothing and give us life.
You give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.
You do not turn your face from us, nor cast us aside.
We confess that we have sinned
against you and our neighbour.
We have wounded your love and marred your image in us.
Restore us for the sake of your Son,
and bring us to heavenly joy,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit,
and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

So now we make this covenant of God our own, trusting in God's promises and relying on God's grace.

Eternal God, in your faithful and enduring love you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ. With joy we offer ourselves anew to you. We are no longer our own but yours.

Silence is kept

I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me and when there is none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.
Your will be done
when I am valued and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
when I have all things and when I have nothing.
I willingly offer all that I have and am
to serve you, as and where you choose.
Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

you are mine and I am yours.

May it be so for ever.

**Let this covenant now made on earth
be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.**

Silence is kept.

Prayers for the Church and the world

As we have entered this covenant not for ourselves alone,
but as God's servants and witnesses,
let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Loving God, hear us as we pray for your holy catholic Church:
make us all one, that the world may believe.

Inspire and lead all who govern and hold authority in the
nations of the world:
establish justice and peace among all people.

Have compassion on all who suffer from any sickness, grief or trouble:
deliver them from their distress.

We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory:
bring us all to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Silence is kept.

The Peace

Christ is our peace.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.

The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new. *2 Corinthians 5.17*

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you

Hymn 409 Lord for the Years

Blessing and dismissal

May Christ, who sends us to the nations,
give us the power of his Spirit.

All Amen.

and the blessing of God almighty...

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Prayer and Care

This week if you would like prayer for anything, do contact [Peta Tracey](#), who will share your prayer request in confidence with our La Côte Church prayer group. Please go to www.lacotechurch.ch for more information about our church.

Thank you for joining us in worship – we hope you have found hope and inspiration for your life.

If you would like to support our church with a gift, by card, click on this link:
<https://www.lacotechurch.ch/donate/>

Thank you to all of you who are pledging and donating your collections online, or putting collection money aside each week.

Here are the bank details for your online donations:

IBAN	CH42 0022 8228 5504 9740 H
Holder	The la Côte Anglican Church Development Association 1267 Coinsins
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A Spendthrift Lover

*A spendthrift lover is the Lord
Who never counts the cost
Or asks if Heaven can afford
to woo a world that's lost.
Our lover tosses coins of gold
Across the midnight skies
And stokes the sun against the cold
To warm us when we rise.*

*Still more is spent in blood and tears
to win the human heart
to overcome the violent fears
that drive the world apart
Behold the bruised and thorn crowned face of
one who bears our scars.
And empties out the wealth and grace
that's hinted by the stars.*

*How shall we love this heart strong God
who gives us everything?
Whose ways to us are strange and odd
What can we give or bring?
Acceptance of the matchless gift
is gift enough to give.
The very act will shake and shift
The way we love and live.*

Thomas H. Troeger



The frontispiece for the Gospel of Mark in the modern illustrated St John's Bible, depicts the baptism of Christ and the open heavens.