

ARCH Group's aim: "To show love for God and You"

Sunday 11th January

Baptism of Christ

Today's Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: Grant 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 forever.

Today's Post Communion

Lord God, the bright splendor whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week Services: Sunday 18th January

8:30am	Church Lench	Holy Communion BCP
9:30am	Harvington	Family Service
11:00am	Rous Lench VH	Morning Service

Notice; Opportunity to sing in Worcester Cathedral as choir in residence on 18th/19th April 2026!

Deadline for expressions of interest is on 20th January. If interested please contact Mark Blackwell at markblackwell96@gmail.com or phone him on 07767 146879

Prayer of Intercession

Heavenly Father, creator of a universe full of wonder and many still-hidden mysteries. Help us in our modern, sometimes confusing and fast changing world to pause and reflect on your glory and unending grace and in the stillness to listen, for your voice is speaking to us alone. We pray for all who share in the church's mission in this community. Help us to move forward in faith trusting in the guidance of your Holy Spirit and in your divine purpose for us all.

Lord in Your mercy. - **'Hear our prayer'**

We continue to pray for peace in your world, and especially for those involved in the process of reconciliation and bridge building between peoples, cultures or nations. Help us wherever and whenever we can in our everyday lives to be instruments of your peace. We are called to challenge injustice in all its forms and we pray for all aid agencies bringing hope to peoples in desperation and in situations that often seem hopeless.

Lord in Your mercy. - **'Hear our prayer'**

As we see the jobless total rise and the increase in the reality of homelessness we pray for all charities who work to improve the lives of those blighted by misfortune and earnestly pray that our nation will still maintain its levels of giving. We pray for our armed forces overseas and their families back home.

Lord in Your mercy. - **'Hear our prayer'**

Lord Jesus, we turn our thoughts and prayers to those who are in physical, mental or spiritual need. And let our prayers extend to those who faithfully and lovingly care for them in whatever location or capacity. We pray for those who reach out to those in need to help them to know that they are not forgotten. Let those for whom we pray feel your healing touch in their lives and that through your unfathomable grace they come to know your peace in their lives.

Lord in Your mercy. - **'Hear our prayer'**

This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 42.1-9.*

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸ I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

This Weeks Psalm: 29,

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

This Weeks Psalm Continued: *Psalm 29*

- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare; in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'
- 9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.
- 10 The Lord shall give strength to his people;
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

This Week's Second Reading: *Acts 10.34-43*,

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ-he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That

This Week's Second Reading: *Acts 10.34-43.*

message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 3.13-end.*

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.'

Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Next Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 49.1-7*

49 Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me.² He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.

³ And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'⁴ But I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God.'

⁵ And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength-⁶ he says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'⁷

Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

Next Week's Psalm: *40.1-12*

- 1 I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
- 2 He brought me out of the roaring pit,
out of the mire and clay;
he set my feet upon a rock and made my footing sure.
- 3 He has put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God;
many shall see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.
- 4 Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,

Next Weeks Psalm Continued: *Psalm 40.1-12*

- who does not turn to the proud that follow a lie.
- 5 Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.
How great your designs for us!
There is none that can be compared with you.
- 6 If I were to proclaim them and tell of them
they would be more than I am able to express.
- 7 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire
but my ears you have opened;
- 8 Burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required;
then said I: 'Lo, I come.
- 9 'In the scroll of the book it is written of me
that I should do your will, O my God;
I delight to do it: your law is within my heart.'
- 10 I have declared your righteousness in the great
congregation; behold, I did not restrain my lips,
and that, O Lord, you know.

Next Week's Second Reading: *1 Corinthians*

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
and our brother Sosthenes,² To the church of God that is in Corinth,
to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints,
together with all those who in every place call on the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³ Grace to you and
peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of
God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you
have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-
⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-
⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the
revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to
the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus
Christ. ⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship
of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *John 1.29-42.*

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

³⁰ This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me."

³¹ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' ³² And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?'

³⁹ He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).