

THE 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.
AMEN.

FIRST READING (Genesis 1 v 1-5)

In the beginning when God created the
heavens and the earth, 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.

Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there
was light. And God saw that the light was
good; and God separated the light from the
darkness. God called the light Day, and the
darkness he called Night. And there was
evening and there was morning, the first day.

SECOND READING (Acts 19 v 1-7)

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed
through the inland regions and came to
Ephesus, where he found some disciples.

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.' Then he said, 'Into what
then were you baptized?' They answered,
'Into John's baptism.' 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.' On
hearing this, they were baptized in the name
of the Lord Jesus.

When Paul had laid his hands on them, the
Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke
in tongues and prophesied— altogether there
were about twelve of them.

GOSPEL**(Mark 1 v 4-11)**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins. 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.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with
a leather belt around his waist, and he ate
locusts and wild honey. 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. I have baptized
you with water; but he will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of
Galilee and was baptized by John in the
Jordan. 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. And
a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son,
the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'