

**ST BOTOLPH**  
C A M B R I D G E

## THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



Paolo Veronese and workshop *The Baptism of Christ* 1580–88  
Oil on canvas, Getty Museum, USA

## SUNG EUCHARIST with the HOLY BAPTISM

OF  
CHARLES ERNEST GORE-OWERS  
JAYDEN ADAM SALES  
HARRY ABRAHAM HERBERT SWORD

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 11.00am**

**Music before the Service**  
**J Stanley Voluntary I, Op. 5**

¶ *Please stand*

**Welcome – Fr Stephen**

**THE INTROIT PROPER**

**T**he Lord is the strength of his people, and a stronghold of salvation to his Anointed One: O Lord, save thine own people and give thy blessing unto thine inheritance; O feed them also, and set them up for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Lord is the strength of his people ...

¶ *Please kneel or sit*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**O**UR Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

**Amen.**

**THE COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**A**Lmighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW**

**O**UR Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

**THE KYRIES** from the *Missa de Angelis*

*Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison.*

Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.

Let us pray.

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**O**GOD, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. **Amen.**

**THE EPISTLE** (*read by Lea Olsan*)

*The Epistle is written in the sixth chapter of the letter of St Paul to the Romans, beginning at the third verse.*

**K**NOW ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with

Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him; knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once; but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Here endeth the Epistle.*

*¶ Please stand*

**THE GRADUAL PROPER**

**T**URN thee again, O Lord, at the last: and be gracious unto thy servants. O Lord, thou hast been our refuge: from one generation to another. ALLELUIA. Alleluia. O deliver me from mine enemies, O God: defend me from them that rise up against me. Alleluia.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

*The Holy Gospel is written in the fifth chapter of the Gospel according to St Matthew, beginning at the twentieth verse.*

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

**J**ESUS said unto his disciples, Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill: and whosoever shall kill, shall be in danger of the judgement. But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgement: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell-fire. Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way, first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**THE NICENE CREED**

*Priest* *All*

*¶ Please sit*

**THE SERMON**  
**Revd Margaret Widdess**

*¶ Please stand*

## THE HOLY BAPTISM



**Ivory Panel**

6th century; Middle East (Levant: Syria or Egypt); British Museum.

**D**EARLY beloved, forasmuch as all men are conceived and born in sin, and that our Saviour Christ saith, none can enter into the kingdom of God, except he be regenerate and born anew of Water and of the Holy Ghost: I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his bounteous mercy he will grant to these persons that thing which by nature they cannot have; that they may be baptized with Water and the Holy Ghost, and received into Christ's holy Church, and be made lively members of the same.

*Then shall the Priest say,*

Hear the words of the Gospel, written by Saint Mark in the tenth chapter at the thirteenth verse.

They brought young children to Christ, that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

*After the Gospel is read, the Priest shall say:*

Almighty and everlasting God, heavenly Father, we give thee humble thanks that thou hast vouchsafed to call us to the knowledge of thy grace and faith in thee: Increase this knowledge, and confirm this faith in us evermore. Give thy Holy Spirit to these persons, that they may be born again, and be made heirs of everlasting salvation, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*Then shall the Priest say to the parents and godparents of the infants to be baptised, and to the adult to be baptised, on this wise:*

Dearly beloved, either ye have brought these children here to be baptized or have come of your own accord to be baptized; ye have prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would vouchsafe to receive them and you, to release them and you of their sins, to sanctify them and you with the Holy Ghost, to give them and you the kingdom of heaven and everlasting life. Ye have heard also that our Lord Jesus Christ hath promised in his Gospel, to grant all these things that ye have prayed for: which promise he, for his part, will most surely keep and perform. Wherefore, after this promise made by Christ, these persons must also faithfully, for their part, promise by you that are his sureties, (until they come of age to take it upon themselves), or being of riper years, answer for themselves, that they will renounce the devil and all his works, and constantly believe God's holy Word, and obediently keep his commandments.

I demand therefore, Dost thou, either in the name of these infants or of your own accord, renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow nor be led by them?

*Answer*

I renounce them all.

*Priest*

Dost thou believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth? And in Jesus Christ his only-begotten Son our Lord? And that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; that he went down into hell, and also did rise again the third day; that he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and from thence shall come again at the end of the world, to judge the quick and the dead? And dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholick Church; the Communion of Saints; the Remission of sins; the Resurrection of the flesh; and everlasting life after death?

*Answer*

All this I stedfastly believe.

*Priest*

Wilt thou be baptized in this faith?

*Answer*

That is my desire.

*Priest*

Wilt thou then obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of thy life?

*Answer*

I will.

*Then shall the Priest say,*

Almighty everliving God, whose most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins, did shed out of his most precious side both water and blood; and gave commandment to his disciples, that they should go teach all nations, and baptize them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Regard, we beseech thee, the supplications of thy Congregation; + sanctify this Water to the mystical washing away of sin; and grant that those now to be baptized therein, may receive the fulness of thy grace, and ever remain in the number of thy faithful and elect children; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Then the Priest shall baptise the persons, saying,*

**Charles Ernest**, I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.  
**Amen.**

**Jayden Adam**, I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.  
**Amen.**

**Harry Abraham Herbert**, I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

*Then shall the Priest say,*

We receive these persons into the Congregation of Christ's flock, and do sign them with the sign of the + Cross \*, in token that hereafter they shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and to fight under his banner against sin, the world, and the devil, and to continue Christ's faithful soldiers and servants unto their live's end.

**Amen.**

*\*Here the Priest shall anoints each person's forehead with the Holy Oil of Chrism.*

*Then the Priest shall say to the Parents of these infants this exhortation following.*

**Forasmuch** as these infants hath promised by you to renounce the devil and all his works, to believe in God, and to serve him: Ye must remember that it is your parts and duties to see that these Infants be taught, so soon as they shall be able to learn, what a solemn vow, promise and profession they hath here made by you. And that they may know these things the better, ye shall call upon them to hear sermons; and chiefly ye shall provide that they may learn the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments in the vulgar tongue, and all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health; and that these infants may be virtuously brought up to lead godly and Christian lives; remembering always, that Baptism doth represent unto us our profession; which is, to follow the example of our Saviour Christ, and to be made like unto him; that as he died and rose again for us, so should we, who are baptized, die from sin and rise again unto righteousness, continually mortifying all our evil and corrupt affections, and daily proceeding in all virtue and godliness of living.

*Then shall the Priest add and say,*

Ye are to take care that these persons come before the Bishop to be confirmed, and, in the case of the infants, so soon as they can say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments in the vulgar tongue, and be further instructed in the Church Catechism set forth for that purpose.

#### **THE OFFERTORY PROPER**

**O**HOLD thou my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not; incline thine ear unto me, and hearken unto my words: show thy marvellous loving-kindness: thou that art the Saviour of them that put their trust in thee, O Lord.

#### **THE OFFERTORY HYMN NEH 436 *Praise, my soul, the King of heaven***

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To His feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like me His praise should sing?  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
Praise the everlasting King.
2. Praise Him for His grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress.  
Praise Him still the same forever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
Glorious in His faithfulness.



3. Frail as summer's flower we flourish  
Blows the wind and it is gone  
But while mortals rise and perish  
God endures unchanging on  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
Praise the high eternal One

4. Father-like He tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame He Knows.  
In His hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
Widely as His mercy goes.

5. Angels, help us to adore Him;  
Ye behold Him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
Praise with us the God of grace.

¶ *Please kneel or sit*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here in earth.

#### **THE PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH MILITANT**

**A**LMIGHTY and ever living God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men; We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our [alms and] oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant that all they that do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

We beseech thee also to save and defend all Christian kings, princes and governors; and specially thy servant Elizabeth our Queen; that under her we may be godly and quietly governed: and grant unto her whole council, and to all that are put in authority under her, that they may truly and indifferently minister justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and Curates, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy People give thy heavenly grace; and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**Y**E that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

**A**LMIGHTY God,  
**F**ather of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ABSOLUTION

**A**LMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; + pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*¶ Please stand*

### THE SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be\_ with you. And with thy\_ spi - rit. Lift\_ up your hearts. We lift them up un-to\_ the Lord.\_

Let us give thanks un - to\_ the Lord\_ our God. It is meet and right so\_ to do.\_

*Priest* *All* *Priest* *All*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying:

### THE SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS (sung by the choir to the setting by Charles Wood)

**H**OLY, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee, O Lord most High. Amen. + Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*¶ Please kneel or sit*

### THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

**W**E do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

### THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

**A**LMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again:

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed + Body and Blood:

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: *Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.*

Likewise, after supper, he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: *Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen.*

### THE AGNUS DEI (setting by Charles Wood)

**O**LAMB of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.



### ***THE COMMUNION PROPER***

I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness: I will sing, and speak praises unto the Lord.

*¶ In accordance with the Anglican tradition, Holy Communion is administered in both kinds i.e. the consecrated Bread and Wine. During the current pandemic, this can only be offered by intinction i.e. the consecrated wafer dipped in the consecrated wine, as the sharing of the Common Cup (Chalice) by sipping the consecrated wine is not permitted.*

### ***THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION***

**T**HE Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, and the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life: Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

### ***THE COMMUNION ANTHEM***

**H Walford Davies** *God be in my head*

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

### **COMMUNION HYMN NEH 353** *Dear Lord and Father of mankind*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Dear Lord and Father of mankind,<br>forgive our foolish ways;<br>re clothe us in our rightful mind,<br>in purer lives thy service find,<br>in deeper reverence, praise.                         | 3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee,<br>O calm of hills above,<br>where Jesus knelt to share with thee<br>the silence of eternity,<br>interpreted by love!                                  |
| 2 In simple trust like theirs who heard<br>beside the Syrian sea<br>the gracious calling of the Lord,<br>let us, like them, without a word<br>rise up and follow thee.                            | 4 Drop thy still dews of quietness,<br>till all our strivings cease;<br>take from our souls the strain and stress,<br>and let our ordered lives confess<br>the beauty of thy peace. |
| 5 Breathe through the heats of our desire<br>thy coolness and thy balm;<br>let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;<br>speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,<br>O still, small voice of calm! |   |

### ***THE LORD'S PRAYER***

**O**UR Father,  
**which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that 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.**

### THE PRAYER OF OBLATION

**T**HEE O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy humble servants entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that all we, who are partakers of this Holy Communion, may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction. And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

**Amen.**

*¶ Please stand*

### THE GLORIA

*Cantor* *All*

Glo-ry be to God on high, and in earth peace, good-will to-wards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we wor-ship thee, we glo-ri-fy thee,

we give thanks to thee for thy great glor-ry, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther al-migh-ty. O Lord, the on-ly be-got-ten Son, Je-su Christ;

O Lord God, lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther,

that ta-kest a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.

Thou that ta-kest a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy up-on us,

Thou that ta-kest a-way the sins of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sit-test at the right hand of God the Fa-ther, have mer-cy up-on us.

For thou on-ly art ho-ly; thou on-ly art the Lord;

thou on-ly, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,

art most high in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

### THE BLESSING

**T**HE peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, + the Father, the Son and the Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN NEH 120** *Thine be the glory*

Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave clothes where Thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly, He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life;  
Life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife,  
Make us more than conquerors through Thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above:

**Organ Voluntary**

**C Saint-Saens** *Fantaisie in E flat*

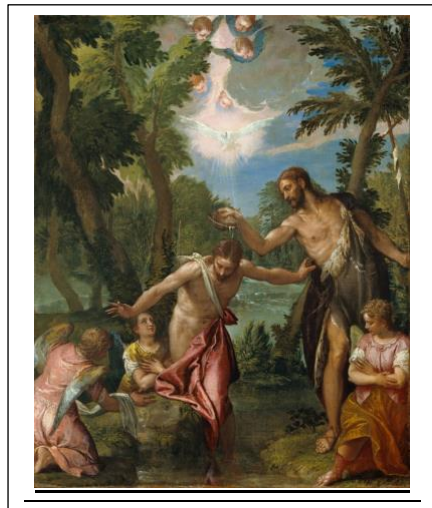
**Music for personal reflection**

**Bach Cantata** *Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam*, BWV 7

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06PQgi\\_K8dI&list=RD06PQgi\\_K8dI&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06PQgi_K8dI&list=RD06PQgi_K8dI&start_radio=1)

Christ our Lord came to the Jordan according to His Father's will.  
He received baptism from Saint John to fulfill his work and destiny;

IMAGES

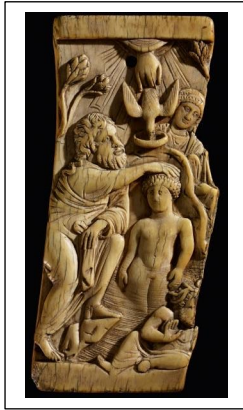


The baptism of Christ is depicted as told in the synoptic gospels. The importance of the Holy Trinity is confirmed by the triad of angels and the vertical line leading from the dove to the baptism bowl and the head of Christ. Jesus wades through the water of the River Jordan extending his arms for balance and touching Saint John the Baptist's side. His head is bowed as Saint John pours the purifying water over his head. His outstretched arms prefigure His position on the cross at His crucifixion. The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove illuminates the sky and shines directly onto Christ reinforcing His divinity. Blue-winged cherubim look down from heaven whilst three angels sit at His feet, bearing witness to the act of baptism. Trees frame the composition set in a verdant landscape and lean away to either side to reveal a serene clearing.

It is written in the three gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke that after Jesus emerged from the water and the dove had descended, the voice of God the Father came from the heavens saying, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased”.<sup>1</sup> The Holy Trinity descending on Jesus was a symbolic fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy and the prelude to the Day of Pentecost in which the Holy Spirit would descend on the apostles and empower them with the gifts of the Spirit promised by Jesus at His ascension.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mark 1:11; see also Matthew 3:17 and Luke 3:22, KJV

<sup>2</sup> Acts 2 and John 14:15-17



This Byzantine carved ivory panel in relief depicts the Baptism of a young Christ standing full-face up to waist in water. St John the Baptist stands leaning forward upon a rock, one hand resting upon Christ's head. Above is the hand of God with rays of light, from which a dove holding a shallow bowl in its beak hovers over Christ. To the right an angel holds a garment and in the foreground a draped and bearded figure reclines (the River Jordan) crowned with reeds and right hand raised. Two trees are in the upper left.

The iconography is similar to the paintings except Christ is depicted as a young boy.



**Veronese** *The Baptism of Christ* (c1580)  
Oil on canvas, Pitti Palace, Florence

Veronese painted a slightly different image, which was originally housed in the Oratory of the Fiorentini confraternity in Ancona. The symbolism tells a similar story.