



The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings

encompassing
St Matthew's, Hastings & St Peter's, Riverslea

Faith Giving Life



***Baptism of the Lord – 1st Sunday of the Epiphany
12th January 2025***



**Our service begins on page 476 of
*A New Zealand Prayer Book - He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa***

Opening Hymn:

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore
till moons shall rise and set no more.**

**People and realms of every tongue
declare his love in sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.**

**Blessings abound where Jesus reigns
the prisoner leaps to lose his chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blessed.**

**Let all creation rise and bring
distinctive honours to our King;
angels descend with songs again
and earth repeat the loud 'Amen!'**

Words: I Watts .Tune: TRURO

The Collect:

Almighty God,
you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit,
and revealed him as your own beloved Son;
**grant that we who are baptised into his name
may give our lives to your service,
and be found worthy of our calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Readings:

A reading from Isaiah 43:1-7

The Lord assures Israel that they are God's chosen people. They are not to fear; God will save them.

After the reading:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord you heavenly powers:

ascribe to the Lord all glory and might.

Ascribe due honour to God's holy name:

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:

it is the glorious God

who makes the thunder upon the great waters.

The voice of the Lord is power:

the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:

the Lord splinters the cedars of Lebanon.

The Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf:

and Sirion like a young wild bull.

The voice of the Lord divides the lightning:

the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness,

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oaks to writhe,

and strips the forests bare:

while in God's temple all cry, 'Glory'.

The Lord sits enthroned above the waters:
the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever.

You Lord will give strength to your people:
you will give your people the blessing of peace.

A reading from Acts 8:14-17

The spread of the early church as converts are received from among the Samaritans.

After the reading:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn:

**Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be,
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.**

**Like a mother you enfold me,
hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.**

**Like a father you protect me,
teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder
let me see the world from high.**

**Friend and lover, in your closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
in your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.**

**Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be,
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.**

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We remain standing

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 3:15–17, 21–22
Praise and glory to God.

The story of Jesus's baptism.

After the reading:
This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ the Word.

Prayers of the People

During the prayers:
God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Offertory Hymn:

**Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:
"God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live!
Surely God's new day is rising!"**

**There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation:
"Are you God's Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?"
"No!" John replied. "He who is mightier than I
Judges and offers salvation."**

**Jesus, you went to be baptized with all of the others,
Taking your place among sinners,
God's lost sons and daughters.
Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove!
Your work began in those waters.**

**Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled
with God's Spirit.
Freed and forgiven, we're welcomed with joy!
Can you hear it?
This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"
Let's take the good news and share it!**

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. t. Lobe den Herren (Praise to the Lord the almighty)

Communion

Communion is offered in both kinds (bread and wine) though feel free to receive only the bread.

We do not, for health reasons, dip the bread in the wine. This makes it safer for us all.

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, lover of all,
by this sacrament you make us one family in Christ your Son,
one in the sharing of his body and blood,
one in the communion of his Spirit.

**Help us to grow in love for one another
and come to the full maturity of the body of Christ.
We ask this in his name. Amen.**

Final Hymn:

**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing - You are my own.**

**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
Here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

**Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
Here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.**

**I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father,
Saviour, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, my children; I will keep you and give you peace.**

(Jaroslav J. Vajda) tune: Ar Hyd Y Nos (All Through the Night)

**Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.
Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

