

Introit.

Welcome and Introduction.

Hymn.

**When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.
*Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God has done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.***

**Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by...**

**So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end...**

Confession.

Let us confess our sins to almighty God.

**All Heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and have failed to do what we ought to have done.
We are sorry and truly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and lead us in his way to walk as children of light. Amen.**

The Absolution.

Collect for the Feast of the Baptism of Christ

Old Testament Reading

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.'

Song: **As I went down in the river to pray, studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown, Good Lord, show me the way.
O sisters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
O sisters, let's go down, down in the river to pray.**

**O brothers, let's go down...
O sinners, let's go down...**

The Address.

Song: **Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining.
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me.
*Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.***

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence;
from the shadows into your radiance.
By the blood I may enter your brightness;
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness. Shine on me; shine on me...**

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story. Shine on me, shine on me...**

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgives us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who 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.

Ein Tad yr hwn wyt yn y nefoedd, sancteiddier dy enw,
deled dy dernas, gwneled dy ewyllys, megis yn y nef, felly ar y ddaear hefyd.
Dyro i ni heddiw ein bara beunyddiol a maddau i ni ein dyledion,
fel y maddeuwn ninnau i'n dyledwyr.
Ac nac arwain ni i brofedigaeth; eithr gwared ni rhag drwg.
Canys eiddot ti yw'r deyrnas, a'r gallu a'r gogoniant, yn oes oesoedd. Amen.

The Intercessions:

led by Anthea.

Thomas Merton Prayer

MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

- From *Through the Year with Thomas Merton*

Song: **There is a redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.**

*Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son
And leaving your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.*

**Jesus my redeemer, name above all names
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain...**

**When I stand in glory I will see his face
And there I'll serve my King forever in that holy place...**

Conclusion and blessing.

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens
and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts and fill your lives with his joy and peace.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Rest upon you and remain with you, this day and always. **Amen**