

Contemplative Prayer Form

(Baptism of Our Lord - Year A)



The Liturgy Letter

Note: This is for individual or small group use. It is intended to be a form of contemplative “Lectio Divina” based on the scripture readings for the week and the themes of the liturgical season. Repetition, silence, and intercession are utilized to allow space for focus over a short or long period of time. It may be helpful to use your fingers to count the number of scripture phrases you utter during the times of repetition. The Scripture prayer section is structured for easy use with [Anglican Prayer Beads](#) for those who might find a tactile expression to be helpful (⛦ = Cross ☸ = Invitatory bead ⬠ = Cruciform bead ● = Weeks bead).

Scripture Reading:

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”
-Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV)

Scripture Prayer:

⛦ Nations will come to your light, the kings to the brightness of your rising.

☸ O God, by a star you led the magi to your only Son; guide us who know you by faith, to your presence where we may see your glory face to face. Amen.

⬠ Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength...worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.
-Psalm 29:1-2b

● Repeat Seven Times:

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name...
-Psalm 29:2a

- ◇ The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful...
-Psalm 29:3-4a

● **Repeat Seven Times:**

...the voice of the Lord is majestic
-Psalm 29:4b

- ◇ The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning. The voice of the Lord shakes the desert; the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forests bare.
-Psalm 29:7-9a

● **Repeat Seven Times:**

...in his temple all cry, "Glory!"
-Psalm 29:9b

- ◇ The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever... the Lord blesses his people with peace.
-Psalm 29:10-11b

● **Repeat Seven Times:**

The Lord gives strength to his people...
-Psalm 29:11a

- ◇ "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.
-Acts 10:34-35

✿ *The Lord's Prayer*

✙ May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Silence

Intercessions

***Pause in between these sentences for silence or specific intercessions**

Son of God and King of the Nations, draw near and guide us by your Spirit. Gather all the nations into your care. Guide your Church in this place and around the world...

Keep us steady in faith and set our hearts to desire your coming Kingdom...

Come, Holy Spirit, heal our wounded souls and misshaped desires...

Free us from anxiety and lead us to trust you...

Father, reveal yourself to those who are going through trials, for those suffering in body or mind...

For families and friends, for all who have asked for our prayers and who pray for us...

For our country, our region (village, town...), that the Christians there may be witnesses to your life and unity...

Jesus, thank you for bringing light and revelation.

Amen.