

Contemplative Prayer Form

(Baptism of Our Lord - Year B)



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:

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” -Mark 1:4-11 (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

◇ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."
-Mark 1:10-11

✠ *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 and Intercessions

Son of God and Light 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 light...

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.