

HOLY BAPTISM IN HOLY COMMUNION – CHIZARA CHLOE OBI

The Church of St John the Evangelist, Adelaide – 25 October 2020

GATHERING AND PREPARATION

We sing the processional hymn

(TIS 491)

*Father welcomes all his children
to his family through his Son;
Father giving his salvation,
life for ever has been won.*

Little children, come to me,
for my kingdom is of these;
life and love I have to give,
mercy for your sin. *Refrain*

In the water, in the word
in his promise, be assured:
those who are baptized and believe
shall be born again. *Refrain*

Let us daily die to sin,
let us daily rise with him,
walk in the love of Christ our Lord,
live in the peace of God. *Refrain*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

The lay minister leads this dialogue

There is one Body and one Spirit;
there is one hope in God's call to us.
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism,
one God and Father of all.

The priest continues with these words

Baptism is the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ. When he had risen from the dead, he commanded his followers to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We have come together today to obey that command.

Baptism with water signifies the cleansing from sin that Jesus' death makes possible, and the new life that God gives us through the Holy Spirit. In baptism, the promises of God are visibly signed and sealed for us. We are joined to Christ, and made members of his body, the Church universal.

Children are baptised in response to God's all-embracing love. Parents and godparents who have responded to that love come now to bring their children for baptism. Before this congregation they must express their own trust and commitment to the promises of God, and their intention to bring up their children in the faith and practice of the Church. In due time these children should make their own response to God, and be prepared for confirmation.

So we welcome you, Chizara Chloe, with your sponsors and families. We give thanks for you, and pray that you may know God's love and faithfulness for ever.

The lay minister says

Let us affirm our trust in God's mercy,
and confess our need of forgiveness.

Let us pray.

A pause for reflection

Lord God, you created this world, and made us in your own image. Forgive us when we turn away from you.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death.
Rescue us from slavery to sin.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, by your Spirit, you restore us to fellowship with you and with one another. Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins,
and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

We sing the Church's Hymn of Praise, the Gloria

Let us pray.

O God,
whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment of your law:
stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit,
and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love,
so that we may love you with our whole being,
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the book of Leviticus

19.1-2, 15-18

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ² Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. ¹⁵ You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer

among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the LORD.¹⁷ You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself.¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Psalm 1.1-4

Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the ungodly:
nor followed the way of sinners, nor taken their seat amongst the scornful.

2 But their delight is in the law of the LORD:
and on that law will they ponder day and night.

3 They are like trees planted beside streams of water:
that yield their fruit in due season.

4 Their leaves also shall not wither:
and look, whatever they do, it shall prosper.

A reading from St Paul's letter to the Thessalonian Christians

2.11-13

As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children,¹² urging and encouraging you and pleading that you should lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.¹³ We also constantly give

thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

We sing the gradual hymn

(TiS 569 – vv. 1-2)

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the living waters flow:
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield, .

The Gospel acclamation. **Alleluia, Alleluia.**

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind. **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew

22.34-40

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

³⁶ ‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’ ³⁷ He said to him, ‘“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’

For the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Sermon

THE PRESENTATION

The priest invites Chizara’s parents and sponsors to bring her before the congregation.

We welcome the one who comes to be baptised. I invite her sponsors to present her now.

The sponsors and parents answer

We present Chizara Chloe to be baptised.

Will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing Chizara for baptism?

I will.

Are you willing to answer on behalf of Chizara? **I am.**

By your own prayers and example, by your friendship and love, will you encourage Chizara in the life and faith of the Christian community? **I will, with God’s help.**

The priest says to Chizara’s sponsors, Okny and Fiona, and parents Megan and Ken

Before God and this congregation, you must affirm that you turn to Christ and reject all that is evil:

Do you turn to Christ? **I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins? **I repent of my sins.**

Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust?

I reject them all.

Do you renounce Satan and all evil? **I renounce all that is evil.**

Almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
and lead you in the light of Christ to his everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

The priest says to Chizara’s sponsors and parents

Will you each, by God’s grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life’s end?

I will, with God’s help.

The priest says to the congregation

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ.

Will you support them in this calling?

The congregation answers

We will.

Let us pray

Bruce, Chizara’s grandfather, leads us in these prayers

Grant, merciful God, that Chizara may be so buried with Christ in baptism that the new nature may be raised up in her. May the fruit of your Spirit grow and flourish in her. **Amen.**

Give to her sponsors and her families the desire to share with her what you have revealed in your holy gospel. **Amen.**

Give Chizara strength and grace that she may faithfully serve you all her life. **Amen.**

May she know Christ's forgiving love and continue in the fellowship and service of his Church. May she proclaim, by word and example, the good news of God in Christ. **Amen.**

We thank you for the ministry we have in your world and to each other in the household of faith. Hasten that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in Christ. **Amen.**

The baptismal party moves to the baptistery

THE BAPTISM

The priest pours water into the font and begins the thanksgiving.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Patricia, Chizara's grandmother, leads us in the prayers over the water.

We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters to bring forth light and life. With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; you nourish and sustain all living things. **Thanks be to God.**

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom, and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise. **Thanks be to God.**

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: for his baptism by John, for his anointing with the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks that through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph. **Thanks be to God.**

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit who forms us in the likeness of Christ and leads us to proclaim your kingdom. **Thanks be to God.**

The priest continues

And now we give you thanks that you have called Chizara to new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism. Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water so that she who is baptised in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection. May she die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue forever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The priest says to the sponsors, parents and the whole congregation

I now ask you to affirm as yours the faith of the Church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

This is the faith of the Church.

Everyone responds

This is our faith: we believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Chizara is brought to the water.

Chizara Chloe, I baptise you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

And all answer

Amen.

AFTER BAPTISM

Chizara's baptismal candle is lit from the Easter candle.

Chizara is then carried in a joyful thanksgiving procession to the altar, where she is signed on the forehead with Oil of Chrism.

Chizara we sign you with the sign of the cross
to show that you are marked as Christ's own for ever.

Live as a disciple of Christ: fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith.

and the congregation responds, saying

**Confess Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
look for his coming in glory.**

The Godparents hold Chizara's candle before her and say

God has brought you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

and the congregation joins the priest saying

Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

The Godparents say

God has called you into his Church.

The congregation responds

**We therefore receive and welcome you
as a member with us of the body of Christ,
as a child of the one heavenly Father,
and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

In baptism, God has made us one in Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The priest says

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Observing social distancing, we exchange a sign of peace with our neighbours.

We sing the offertory hymn

(TIS 494)

1. In water we grow,
secure in the womb,
and speechlessly know
love's safety and room.
Baptizing and blessing
we publish for good
the freeing, caressing
safe keeping of God.
2. In water we wash:
the dirt of each day,
its trouble and rush
are carried away.
In Christ re-created
by love's cleansing art,
self-will and self-hatred
dissolve and depart.

3. In water we dive,
and cannot draw breath,
then surface alive,
rebounding from death.
Our old self goes under,
in Christ dead and drowned.
We rise, washed in wonder,
by love clad and crowned.

4. In water we dwell,
for by its deep flow
through bloodstream and cell,
we live, think, and grow.
Praise God, love outflowing,
whose well of new birth
baptizes our knowing,
and waters the earth.

The priest says the prayer over the gifts.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour, be yours now and always,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

In baptism you have united us to him
and brought us out of darkness into light.
You pour your Spirit upon us, filling us with your gifts,
and calling us to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
With Chizara and her family, and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:

proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit

unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION

As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:
**so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Gracious God,
in baptism you make us one family in Christ your Son,
one in the sharing of his body and his 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.

Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace
to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.

We sing the thanksgiving hymn

(TfS 487 – Tune 161)

Lord Jesus Christ, on this your day of light
we worship you with all our living breath;
you rescued us from self's enclosing night,
your life burst through the darkened walls of death.

We thank you, Lord, that your renewing grace,
poured out for all the world at Calvary,
is marked on this your child; here in this place
this precious baby shares your victory!

You are the living vine, your life we share;
we cannot live and grow apart from you;
let us enfold this branch with loving care
and show each baptized child your love is true.

Now to our risen Lord and King of grace
we lift our voices in this joyful song;
for your great love embraces every race,
and in your care both old and young belong.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; give honour to all;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.