

Mark how the Lamb of God's self-offering

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our human sinfulness takes on
in the birth-waters of the Jordan
as Jesus is baptized by John.
Hear how the voice from heaven thunders,
"Lo, this is my beloved Son."
See how in dove-like form
the Spirit descends on God's Anointed One.

From this assurance of God's favor
Jesus goes to the wilderness,
there to endure a time of testing
that readied him to teach and bless.
So we, by water and the Spirit
baptized into Christ's ministry,
are often led to paths of service,
through mazes of adversity.

Grant us, O God, the strength and courage
to live the faith our lips declare;
bless us in our baptismal calling;
Christ's royal priesthood help us share.
Turn us from every false allegiance,
that we may trust in Christ alone;
raise up in us a chosen people
transformed by love to be your own.