

January 10

The Baptism of the Lord



These are the readings for Year B. The first reading, responsorial psalm, and second reading from Year A (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10; and Acts 10:34-38) may also be used.

First Reading (Isaiah 55:1-11)

Thus says the LORD:

All you who are thirsty,
come to the water!

You who have no money,
come, receive grain and eat;
come, without paying and without cost,
drink wine and milk!

Why spend your money for what is not bread,
your wages for what fails to satisfy?

Heed me, and you shall eat well,
you shall delight in rich fare.

Come to me heedfully,
listen, that you may have life.

I will renew with you the everlasting **covenant**,
the benefits assured to David.

As I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander of nations,
so shall you summon a nation you knew not,
and nations that knew you not shall run to you,
because of the LORD, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call him while he is near.

Let the scoundrel forsake his way,
and the wicked man his thoughts;
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

As high as the heavens are above the earth
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

For just as from the heavens
 the rain and snow come down
 and do not return there
 till they have watered the earth,
 making it fertile and fruitful,
 giving seed to the one who sows
 and bread to the one who eats,
 so shall my word be
 that goes forth from my mouth;
 my word shall not return to me void,
 but shall do my will,
 achieving the end for which I sent it.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6)

**R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs
 of salvation.**

God indeed is my savior;

I am confident and unafraid.

My strength and my courage is the Lord,

and he has been my savior.

With joy you will draw water

at the fountain of salvation. R.

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name;

among the nations make known his deeds,

proclaim how exalted is his name. R.

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement;

let this be known throughout all the earth.

Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,

for great in your midst

is the Holy One of Israel! R.

Second Reading (1 John 5:1-9)

Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came **through water and blood**, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one who testifies, and the Spirit is truth. So there are three that testify, the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and the three are of one accord. If we accept human testimony, the testimony of God is surely greater. Now the testimony of God is this, that he has testified on behalf of his Son.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel (Mark 1:7-11)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and **loosen the thongs of his sandals**. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Key Words

The Christmas Season ends today with the **Baptism of the Lord**, the last of Jesus' three epiphanies. The first two are: Jesus' revelation as a child to the shepherds; and Jesus' revelation to the Wise Men on the feast of the Epiphany (which we celebrated last Sunday). In today's gospel Jesus is a grown man, and his baptism by John the Baptist marks the beginning of his earthly ministry.

A **covenant** is a promise between two people or groups. In the first covenant, also called the Old Testament, God promised to care for his people and the people agreed to worship only God. In the new covenant through Jesus, also called the New Testament, God renews his promise and we agree to love God and one another.

Saint John tells us in his first Letter that Jesus came **through water and blood**. First, Jesus was baptized in the water of the River Jordan by John the Baptist; when he died on the cross, Jesus spilled his blood for us. Both these events in the life of Jesus are signs that "Christ is begotten by God."

When one person was recognized as being much more important than another, the less-important person was not worthy even to **loosen the thongs of his sandals** (a job for a slave to carry out). John the Baptist uses this image to show how great the difference is between himself and Jesus.



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