

January 9

Baptism of the Lord



These are the readings for Year C. 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 40:1-5, 9-11)

Comfort, give comfort to my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her service is at an end,
her guilt is expiated;
indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!

Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low;
the rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up onto a high mountain,
Zion, herald of glad tidings;
cry out at the top of your voice,
Jerusalem, herald of good news!

Fear not to cry out
and say to the cities of **Judah**:
Here is your God!

Here comes with power
the Lord God,
who rules by a strong arm;
here is his reward with him,
his recompense before him.

Like a **shepherd** he feeds his flock;
in his arms he gathers the lambs,
carrying them in his bosom,
and leading the ewes with care.

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

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30)

R. O bless the Lord, my soul.

O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!

You are clothed with majesty and glory,
robed in light as with a cloak.

You have spread out the heavens like a tent-cloth; R.

You have constructed your palace upon the waters.

You make the clouds your chariot;
you travel on the wings of the wind.

You make the winds your messengers,
and flaming fire your ministers. R.

How manifold are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have wrought them all—
the earth is full of your creatures;

the sea also, great and wide,
in which are schools without number
of living things both small and great. R.

They look to you to give them food in due time.

When you give it to them, they gather it;
when you open your hand, they are filled
with good things. R.

If you take away their breath, they perish
and return to the dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth. R.



Second Reading (Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7)

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and **worldly desires** and to live **temperately**, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

When the kindness and generous love
of God our savior appeared,
not because of any righteous deeds we had done
but because of his mercy,
he saved us through the bath of rebirth
and **renewal** by the Holy Spirit,
whom he richly poured out on us
through Jesus Christ our savior,
so that we might be justified by his grace
and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

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

Gospel (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether **John** might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; **with you I am well pleased.**"

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

Key Words

Judah was one of the twelve sons of Jacob. Each son was the chief of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. The tribe of Judah established itself to the south of Jerusalem.

The Bible explains the great love of God (the **shepherd**) for us (his sheep). The shepherd cares for his sheep all day and night, finding pastures where there is grass to eat and water to drink.

Worldly desires arise when we live as if the most important thing in life is to please only ourselves. When we live in God's grace and accept his mercy, then we live as God's children and are a light to the world.

Saint Paul taught that we who are Jesus' friends should live without the need for so many things — we should live in a **temperate** manner. To be self-controlled is to eat and drink just what we need, and to enjoy ourselves without hurting ourselves or others.

Baptism brings us to **renewal**. It allows us to be “born” in a new way, united with the resurrected Jesus, among the great family of Christians which is the Church.

John the Baptist was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, who was a cousin of the Virgin Mary. He was known as “the precursor” because he preached that the Messiah was about to arrive. He was called John the Baptist because those who were converted by his preaching were baptized in order to prepare themselves for the coming of the Savior.

When today's Gospel tells us that a voice from the sky said, “**with you I am well pleased,**” this is showing us that Jesus is the Son of God and has God's approval. Jesus came to teach us the way we should live as brothers and sisters — as children of God.