

The Baptism of the Lord
† Sunday, 10 January 2021



Cycle of Prayer: Peace on earth

Keynote: God reveals the plan of freedom and renewal for all nations

Prophet Isaiah 55: 1-11

'Thus says the Lord: "Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come!... Pay attention, come to me, listen, and your soul will live."

God is faithful to the covenant with the people, more certain than the rain and snow that fall from the heavens to water the earth. So God says: *'So the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'*

Canticle of Isaiah 12: 2-6 – A song of joy for the lord has done wonders

First Letter of John 5: 1-9

'Who can overcome the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood... with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth – so there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree... we accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater.'

So the writer John reminds us of the water and blood that issued from the side of the Lord on the cross, and on this feast, we hear tell of the witness of the Spirit as Jesus emerges from the water of baptism in the river Jordan. We are invited to place our trust in these witnesses and to believe in Jesus Christ.

Gospel according to Mark 1: 7.11

Mark begins his account of the gospel directly with the public life and ministry of Jesus. This short passage indicates the importance of Jesus as he emerges on the public scene. For John the Baptist says: *'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am... I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'* Mark then tells us that Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan by John and *'John saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on Him... "You are my Son, the beloved; my favour rests on you."* We too are to dance exuberantly and sing in our hearts with joy at the blessing God is giving to each of us, for his favour rests upon us too.

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Note:

This marks the end of the Christmas Season. The cycle of Sundays in Ordinary now begins.

Lectionary readings – Sunday cycle Year B, and Weekday cycle Year I.