

## **Baptism of the Lord (Cycle B)**

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11

Today's reading is from a part of Isaiah written when the Jewish people were exiled in Babylon, which is in modern-day Iraq. This section is often referred to as the "book of comfort" because of the encouragement it gives. Today's passage is the finale to this "book of comfort" and uses the image of poor people being invited by God to a joyful banquet.

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-9

In this passage, the author of the first letter of John emphasizes belief in Jesus Christ as *Son of God*. He uses phrases and symbols which describe Christ's baptism, death and resurrection. The Spirit, present at these events, testifies to Christ as Son of God. Such testimony is far superior to any human witness.

## **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)**

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3: 3-10, 19

Today's reading takes place 11 centuries before Christ at an Israelite shrine, which is referred to as a "temple" in the text. At the shrine was the "Ark of God," a wooden chest overlaid by gold in which the 10 Commandments were kept. Eli was the high priest at the shrine. Samuel was a young man in Eli's service. We will hear how God called Samuel to be a prophetic leader of Israel.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20

Today and for the next few Sundays, our second reading will be from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Corinth, a port city in ancient Greece, was noted for its widespread immorality. Anything and everything was thought permissible. Paul doesn't counter this attitude by putting down the human body as evil or of little worth. Rather, he does just the opposite.

