



“For this reason the Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord’s Body. She never ceases to present to the faithful the Bread of Life, taken from the one table of God’s Word and Christ’s Body.” Dei Verbum, 21

Baptism of the Lord

Reading 1- Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Responsorial Psalm - 29: 1-2,3-4,9-10

Reading 2 - Acts 10:34-38

Gospel - Mk 1: 7-11

Reading 1

Here is my servant* whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased.
Upon him I have put my spirit;
he shall bring forth justice to the nations.^a

2

He will not cry out, nor shout,
nor make his voice heard in the street.

3

A bruised reed* he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench.
He will faithfully bring forth justice.

4

He will not grow dim or be bruised

until he establishes justice on the earth;
the coastlands* will wait for his teaching.

6

I, the LORD, have called you for justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,^b

7

To open the eyes of the blind,
to bring out prisoners from confinement,
and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

Who are the covenant people and who are the nations referring to?

Who is the servant and chosen one?

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Give to the Lord, you sons of God,
give to the Lord glory and praise,
give to the Lord the glory due his name,
adore the Lord in holy attire.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters,
the Lord, over vast waters.
The voice of the Lord is mighty;

the voice of the Lord is majestic.

The God of glory thunders,
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
The Lord is enthroned above the flood;
the Lord is enthroned as king forever.

Reading 2

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said,* "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality."^j

35

Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.

36

* You know the word [that] he sent to the Israelites* as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all,^k

37

what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached,^l

38

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth* with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Is Baptism necessary for salvation? See CCC 1257-1260

1257 The Lord himself affirms that Baptism is necessary for salvation. He also commands his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all nations and to baptize them. Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament. The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude; this is why she takes care not to neglect the mission she has received from the Lord to see that all who can be baptized are "reborn of water and the Spirit." *God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments.*

1258 The Church has always held the firm conviction that those who suffer death for the sake of the faith without having received Baptism are baptized by their death for and with Christ. This *Baptism of blood*, like the *desire for Baptism*, brings about the fruits of Baptism without being a sacrament.

1260 "Since Christ died for all, and since all men are in fact called to one and the same destiny, which is divine, we must hold that the Holy Spirit offers to all the possibility of being made partakers, in a way known to God, of the Paschal mystery." Every man who is ignorant of the Gospel of Christ and of his Church, but seeks the truth and does the will of God in accordance with his understanding of it, can be saved. It may be supposed that such persons would have *desired Baptism explicitly* if they had known its necessity.

Gospel

And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.

8

* d I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit.”

The Baptism of Jesus.

9

e It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John.

10

On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him.*

11

f And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Why do you think Jesus was baptized?

How is Jesus baptism connected to His passion both in this reading and in general?

Meditation:

As God’s adopted child, what in my life needs some work to become pleasing to God?