

15th January 020

Baptism of the Lord (Sunday after Epiphany)

Readings:

First: Isaiah 42.1-4, 6-7. "I have put my spirit upon him." (1b)

Psalm 29, "Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name." (2a)

Second: Acts 10.34-38, "I truly understand that God shows no partiality." (34)

Gospel: Matthew 3.13-17, "This is my Son, the Beloved." (17b)

My Beloved!

In all the readings on the baptism of the Lord we come across the mind of God. Prophecy of Isaiah is about the Messiah. At a closer look we can figure out that this is also the design of God for each of us, his children. If we analyze the verses of Isaiah's prophecy today we realize that each word of that prophetic utterance is also about us the humans, the sons and daughters of God on earth.

In the Jordan when Jesus came out of the water after his baptism the voice of God come from heaven, *"This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."* (Matthew 3.17) Are not the same words uttered on each of us when we were baptized, *'This is my son, this is my daughter, my beloved'*? We know that the Baptist was giving baptism with water for the remission of sin, which did not have any meaning for Jesus because he was the one born without sin. However, Jesus decided to go through this baptism in order to incorporate us, the sons and daughters of humans, as God's children. We are sons and daughters in the Son.

He came down to earth to become man, to be one among us, and he decided to be one with us in baptism also. On the day of our baptism each of us becomes just like the Son, Jesus, without a trace of sin and corruption. That is the meaning of our baptism. It happens because Jesus lived, died and rose from the dead. In our baptism in union with him we undergo the same process of dying with Christ and rising with him. That is why St. Paul tells that we are baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ. (Romans 6.1-5).

With baptism in Jordan Jesus began his mission of proclaiming the kingdom of God. When he physically departed from the world on the day of his Ascension he gave the important mission to his disciples to go to the ends of the earth and proclaim the good news of the kingdom and to baptize. The same mission is imparted to each of us on the day of our baptism. Hence on this day of the baptism of Jesus let us be aware that we are one with Jesus in baptism and that we are anointed and commissioned to proclaim the kingdom with our life, with our words and with our being. That is, we too are sent by the Father with the same mission of Jesus. Yes, we too are Messiahs today, here and now!