

Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY — January 10, 2021

First Reading — Is 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the LORD:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,
upon whom I have put my spirit;
he shall bring forth justice to the nations,
not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice
heard in the street. a bruised reed he shall not
break, and a smoldering wick he shall not
quench, until he establishes justice on the earth;
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of
justice, I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the
people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of
the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement,
and from the dungeon, those who live in
darkness.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

R. (11b) 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.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

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.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

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.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading — Acts 10:34-38

34 And Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I
perceive that God shows no partiality, 35 but in
every nation anyone who fears him and does what
is right is acceptable to him. 36 You know the word
which he sent to Israel, preaching good news of
peace by Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), 37 the
word which was proclaimed throughout all
Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism
which John preached: 38 how God anointed Jesus
of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power;
how he went about doing good and healing all that
were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him

Gospel Reading — Mark 1:7-11

7 And he preached, saying, "After me comes he
who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I
am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8
I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize
you with the Holy Spirit." 9 In those days Jesus
came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized
by John in the Jordan. 10 And when he
came up out of the water, immediately he saw the
heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon
him like a dove; 11 and a voice came from heaven,
"Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well
pleased."

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

First Reading —

1. How would you describe in your own words the Lord's mission as explained in this passage?
2. Why do you think that justice is such an important issue with God?

Second Reading —

3. What are some of the ways in which we can demonstrate that God shows no partiality?

Gospel Reading —

4. How do you view both Jesus' willingness and his decision to be baptized?
5. How does this incident in Jesus' life testify to his authenticity as God's Son?
6. What does this passage regarding Jesus' baptism reveal about the Trinity?

INVITATION TO ACT

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another's openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.