

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

BAPTISM OF CHRIST (YEAR A)

COLLECT

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isa 42.1–9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

from Ps 29



R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.
(All repeat)

O give the Lord, you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **R.**

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of the waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **R.**

The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING

Acts 10.34–43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of

sins through his name.’

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 3.17

Alleluia.

This is my Son, the Beloved:
with whom I am well pleased.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Mt 3.13–17

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Open the heavens, Lord God, and send your transforming Spirit on us and on these gifts. May we who are baptized into Christ be ready to share his cup of suffering and strengthened to serve him for ever; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit, complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SOLEMN BLESSING

May the Father, whose voice bore witness to his beloved Son at the River Jordan, bestow upon you the Spirit of adoption as his children. **Amen.**

May Christ, who submitted to baptism at the hands of John, fulfil in you all righteousness and cleanse you from sin. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, who came upon the Son at his baptism, pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth. **Amen.**

And the blessing ...