



Liturgy Cycle A

Baptism of the Lord

Introduction

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Christ. Christ, the sinless one, joined the queue of sinners, and was baptized by his cousin John in the waters of the Jordan. He did this so as to free us from the power of sin.

First Reading (Isaiah 42: 1-4. 6-7)

Here we are given a portrait of a true servant of God. He is gentle and humble of heart, and totally dedicated to his mission, which is bring about true justice.

Second Reading (Acts 10: 34-38)

Here we have the description of how the early Christians saw Baptism. The baptised person was said to have been 'anointed' with the Holy Spirit and with power.'

Gospel (Matthew 3: 13-17)

This tells of the Baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan by his cousin John, how his true identity was revealed, and how he was given power for the mission he was about to begin.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray through Christ our Brother that with the Holy Spirit to inspire and strengthen us, we may be able to model our lives on his.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the Church: that it may carry on Christ's work of love and service to others. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all political leaders: that they may work to build a world free of poverty and oppression, so that all of God's children can live in freedom and dignity. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



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For all those who are in the doldrums, especially for those who are out of work. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, save us through your coming.

That we may be patient with ourselves and with others, and that we may not judge the success of our lives by worldly standards. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, save us through your coming.

Communion Reflection

**Baptism was not over and done with
when the priest poured water over infant foreheads.
The truth is that we are being baptised
by everything that happen to us in our life.**

**We are batised by trails and difficulties:
in the turbulent waters
we are purified of all that is false and useless.**

**We are baptised by suffering:
in its murky waters
we grow in humility and compassion.**

**We are baptised by joy:
in its gurgling waters
we experience the goodness of life.
We are baptised by love:
in its singing waters
we blossom like flowers in the sun.**

**To be baptised is to be christened,
which means to be made like Christ.
The sacrament, however, only begins this.
It is like the planting of a seed.
It will take a lifetime for this seed to grow and ripen,
for the image of Christ to be formed in us.**