



Liturgy Cycle C

Baptism Of Christ

Introduction

Today we celebrate the day Christ, the sinless one, joined the ranks of us sinners by accepting Baptism from his cousin John. He did so in order to help us to live in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

He joins us now as we meet to celebrate the Eucharist in his name. Let us draw near to him who is a messenger of the Father's love and mercy.

You open the eyes of the blind.
Lord, have mercy.

You heal those who are broken-hearted.
Christ, have mercy.

You set captives free and bring true justice to all peoples.
Lord, have mercy.

First Reading (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11)

The prophet is urged to deliver a message of hope and consolation to the exiles in Babylon. Like a shepherd caring for his sheep, God is coming to save his people.

Second Reading (Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7)

This talks about the kind of life the baptised should live and the kind of ambitions that should motivate them. Salvation, with its hope of eternal life, is a gift from God through Jesus Christ.

Gospel (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22)

This reading gives us a snatch of John the Baptist's preaching and concludes with a brief account of the Baptism of Jesus.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray for a better understanding of the meaning of our Baptism and the grace to live up to it with joy and generosity.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the baptised: that they may strive to live up to the dignity conferred on them in Baptism. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



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For all political leaders and scientists: that they may obey their conscience and seek at all times to promote truth and justice in society. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who are suffering persecution in the cause of right: that they may have the courage and strength to continue to bear witness to the truth. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

That each of us may treasure our Baptism and seek to grow in our understanding and living of it. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray:

Lord, send us your Spirit to open our eyes blinded by selfishness, and to set us free from the prison of our fears and doubts, so that we can grow to maturity as caring sons and daughters of God our Father. For you live and reign for ever and ever.

Communion Reflection

'You are my beloved Son, in you I am well pleased.'

**Thus right from the start of his public mission
Jesus received affirmation from his Father.**

**One of the deepest needs of the human heart
is the need to be appreciated.**

Every human being wants to be valued.

We all need someone who will help us unfold.

**We need someone to believe in us,
who will help us to be ourselves.**

**We need someone who understands us,
someone who can see the hidden self in us
that is perhaps afraid to come out into the open.
Only such a person will help us to share all we are,
making us believe in our own goodness,
and awakening in us a desire to share it with others.**

**At our Baptism we too became children of the Father,
and we received the gift of the Holy Spirit.
The Spirit will help us to unfold and grow,
bringing his love to our brothers and sisters.
Thus we will become more and more pleasing
in the sight of our heavenly Father.**