

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD



### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Come to the water; listen to my words and you shall have life.*

Oh, come to water all you who are thirsty;  
though you have no money, come!  
Buy corn without money, and eat,  
and, at no cost, wine and milk.  
Why spend money on what is not bread,  
your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat  
and rich food to enjoy.  
Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.  
With you I will make an everlasting covenant  
out of the favours promised to David.  
See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and a master of the nations.

See, you will summon a nation you never knew,  
those unknown will come hurrying to you,  
for the sake of the Lord your God,  
of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.  
Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his ways,  
the evil man his thoughts.  
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,  
to our God who is rich in forgiving;  
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways — it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens  
and do not return without watering the earth,  
making it yield and giving growth  
to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating,  
so the word that goes from my mouth  
does not return to me empty,  
without carrying out my will  
and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

The word of the Lord.

***Responsorial † Isaiah 12:2-6***

***You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.***

Truly, God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

***You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.***

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!  
Declare the greatness of his name.

***You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.***

Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

***You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.***

***Second Reading † 1 John 5:1-9***

**A reading from the first letter of St John**

*The Spirit, the water and the blood give witness.*

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ  
has been begotten by God;  
and whoever loves the Father that begot him  
loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children  
if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us;  
this is what loving God is — keeping his commandments;  
and his commandments are not difficult,  
because anyone who has been begotten by God  
has already overcome the world;  
this is the victory over the world — our faith.

Who can overcome the world?  
Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God:  
Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,  
not with water only, but with water and blood;  
with the Spirit as another witness —  
since the Spirit is the truth —  
so that there are three witnesses,  
the Spirit, the water and the blood,  
and all three of them agree.

We accept the testimony of human witnesses,  
but God's testimony is much greater,  
and this is God's testimony,  
given as evidence for his Son.

The word of the Lord.

***Gospel Acclamation † cf John 1:29***

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

John saw Jesus approaching him, and said:

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***Gospel † Mark 1:7-11***

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

*You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said,

‘Someone is following me,  
someone who is more powerful than I am,  
and I am not fit to kneel down  
and undo the strap of his sandals.  
I have baptised you with water,  
but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit’.

It was this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven,

‘You are my Son, the Beloved;  
my favour rests on you.’

The Gospel of the Lord.