

BAPTISM OF THE LORD, Year C

*BAPTISM OF THE LORD, Year A | Readings for the Season of the Year (Ordinary Time)
are found in the companion volume – Volume 2.*

BAPTISM OF THE LORD, Year B

First Reading † Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

‘Comfort, O comfort my people,’
says your God.
Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and cry out to her
that her period of service is ended,
her penalty has been paid;
from the hand of the Lord she has received
double for all her sins.’

A voice crying out,
‘In the desert prepare a way for the Lord.
Make straight across the wastelands
a highway for our God.

Let every ravine be filled in,
every mountain and hill be brought down.
the crooked shall be straight,
the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all humanity shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, Zion,
herald of good news!
Lift up your voice with power, Jerusalem,
herald of good news!
Lift it up without fear!
Say to the cities of Judah,
‘See, here is your God.’

See the Lord God coming with power,
his arm rules for him,
see, his reward is with him,
his prize goes before him.
He tends his flock like a shepherd,
gathering the lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

O Lord my God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and honour,
wrapped in light as with a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

On the waters you establish your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot;
you ride on the wings of the wind.
You make the winds your messengers,
flame and fire your servants.

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your creatures.
Vast and wide is the span of the sea,
with its teeming things past counting,
living things great and small.

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up;
you open wide your hand, they are well filled.

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

You take away their breath, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, and they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading † Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

The grace of God our Saviour has been revealed to the whole human race, teaching us that, giving up impiety and all worldly passions, we should be self-restrained and live righteous and religious lives in this present world, waiting for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Christ Jesus. He offered himself for us in order to ransom us from all our faults and to purify a people to be his very own, eager to do good.

But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour for humanity were revealed, not because of any works of righteousness we had ourselves done but in accordance with his own mercy: he saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit which he generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our Saviour so that, justified by his grace, we should become heirs in hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † cf Luke 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel † Luke 3:15-16,21-22

*When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying,
the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

There was a feeling of expectancy among the people; they were all questioning in their hearts whether John might himself be the Messiah. John answered them all by saying,

‘I baptise you with water, but one more powerful than me is coming,
and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.’

Now it happened that while all the people were being baptised and while Jesus, after his own baptism, was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in a physical form, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven,

‘You are my Son, the Beloved;
in you I am well pleased.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

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