

Reflections on the Gospel

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. Jn 1:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

John saw Jesus approaching him, and said:
This is the Lamb of God who takes away
the sins of the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 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 at 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.

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THE SAVING WORD

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD / B

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FIRST READING

Isa 55:1-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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

Oh, come to the 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 way,
the evil man his thoughts.

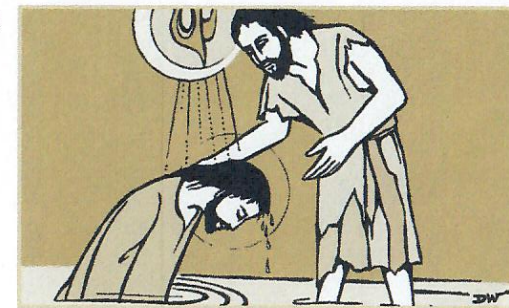
Let him turn back to the Lord who will
take pity on him,

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 PSALM

Isa 12:2-6. R. v. 6

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

1. 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. **R.**

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

3. 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. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Jn 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?