



THE WORD

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Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (White)

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Reflection: *One of the more controversial events in the life of Jesus is his baptism. Jesus understood as well as John that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God, therefore he doesn't need baptism for he is sinless. For John the Baptist, he does his ministry of baptising people because they needed to be cleansed of their sins. So it would have been an awkward situation that John should be baptising Jesus. Yet, Jesus insisted that this is what the Father wants. True enough, after his baptism, a voice came down from heaven declaring, "You are my Son, the Beloved, my favour rests on you." It seems that Jesus wanted it that way so that it will be a way of the Father introducing him to the world as Jesus starts his ministry. May we also be reminded of our own baptism and try to be faithful so that we can be an example to everyone.*

Introduction to the Mass:
THE CLEANSING WATERS OF RE-BIRTH. In Luke's Gospel, the baptism of Jesus marks the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of a new era, that of the saving ministry of Jesus. This feast, which occurs early in the new year, is a good time for us to resolve to begin a new era in our own lives. Putting the past behind us, let us commit ourselves to making a fresh start in our service and love of our brothers and sisters.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon:

[cf. Matthew 3:16-17]

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Greeting

(Sign of the Cross)

P – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All – And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

P – Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P – Lord Jesus, recognised by John the Baptist, Lord have mercy.

A – Lord, have mercy.

P – Christ Jesus, anointed by the Holy Spirit, Christ have mercy.

A – Christ, have mercy.

P – Lord Jesus, baptised for our salvation, Lord have mercy.

A – Lord, have mercy.

P – May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten

Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading:

[Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11]

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

‘Console my people, console them; says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord.

All – Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

[Psalm 103]

R – Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe! You stretch out the heavens like a tent. **(R)**

Above the rains build your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants. **(R)**

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting living things great and small. **(R)**

All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill. **(R)**

You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. **(R)**

Second Reading:

[Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7]

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to Titus

God’s grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is

to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

All – Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

[cf. Luke 3:16]

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!**

Gospel

[Luke 3:15-16, 21-22]

P – The Lord be with you.

All – And with your spirit.

P – A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All – **Glory to you, O Lord.**

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

P – The Gospel of the Lord.

All – **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

Profession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (all

bow). And by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

P— Our Baptism makes us members of God's family. Confidently, let us present our needs to him. For every petition, let our response be:

R — **Lord, hear our prayer.**

C — For all called to the waters of Baptism this past year, and for all who have formed them in faith, **We pray: (R)**

C — For all who serve selflessly in government, and

for all who seek to assist those in need, **We pray: (R)**

C — For all who reside in the land of the River Jordan, and for all who work for peace and tranquillity in the Holy Land, **We pray: (R)**

C — For all who have gathered to share word and sacrament, and for all who are unable or unwilling to come, **We pray: (R)**

C — That those who have died may enter the kingdom of God, especially [*you may insert name/s of those who have died recently*] **We pray: (R)**

P — Compassionate Father, you shower your gracious mercy on us. Hear our prayers, and bring us to everlasting life with you. We ask this through the Christ our Lord.

All — **Amen.**



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts

P – Pray, brothers and sisters...

All – **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the offerings

Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the

world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All – Amen.

Preface Baptism of the Lord

P – The Lord be with you.

All – And with your spirit.

P – Lift up your hearts.

All – We lift them up to the Lord.

P – Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All – It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the waters of the Jordan you revealed with signs and wonders a new Baptism, so that through the voice that came down from heaven we might come to believe in your Word dwelling among us, and by the Spirit's descending in the likeness of a dove we might know that Christ your Servant has been anointed with the oil of gladness and sent to bring the good news to the poor.

And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without end we acclaim:

All - Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Acclamation

P – The mystery of faith.

All – When we eat his Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All – Our Father...

P – Deliver us, Lord...

All – For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion (kneel)

P – Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All – Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon [John 1:32, 34]

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Prayer after Communion

P – Let us pray

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth. Through Christ our Lord. **All – Amen**

CONCLUDING RITES

P – The Lord be with you.

All – And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son + and the Holy Spirit.

All – Amen.

Dismissal

P – Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All – Thanks be to God.



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