

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD LITURGIES

First reading

Isaiah 55:1-11

Come to me and your soul will live, and I will make an everlasting covenant with you

Thus says the Lord:

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 12

The rejoicing of a redeemed people

With joy you will draw water from the wells 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.

With joy you will draw water from the wells 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.

With joy you will draw water from the wells 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.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Second reading

1 John 5:1-9

Jesus Christ came by water and blood

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.

Gospel Acclamation

cf. Jn1:29

Alleluia, alleluia!
John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said:
This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:7-11

'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you'

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.'

BIDDING PRAYERS

PRIEST

Gathered together as God's family, in faith, love and reverence, let us pray to our Heavenly Father, from whom all life comes.

READER

Let us pray for God's family, the Church. May we all witness courageously to the sanctity of human life, as God wills. (*Pause*)

Lord, hear us.....

Let us pray for those in public office. May they be given the grace to defend the right to life of the unborn, the elderly and the disabled.

Lord, hear us..... (*Pause*)

Let us pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood for our diocese, that God's people may continue to be nourished by the Mass and the Sacraments. *(Pause)*

Lord, hear us.....

We pray for a just solution to the crisis in Gaza and the Middle East so that people may be able to live in peace. *(Pause)*

Lord hear us.

Let us pray for those that are sick. May our Christian care be a source of strength and encouragement. *(Pause)*

Lord, hear us.....

Let us pray for all those who have died, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time. May God, who gave them life, now reward them with joy which never ends. *(Pause)*

Lord, hear us.....

Let us commend these and all our needs to the prayers of our Blessed Lady, as we say:

Hail Mary.....

PRIEST

Almighty Father, you created human beings in your own image and likeness. Teach us to love and respect your gift of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.