

heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

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

This is he who, without leaving my side, dwelt in the womb of Mary. It is he who was neither separated from me, nor confined in her... My Son and the Son of Mary are not two sons, but one... One and the same is he who perceived by the mind and he who is perceived by the eyes; he who is invisible and he whom you have seen; he who is eternal and he who is subject to time; he who is one with me in my divinity, and he who is one with you in your humanity in all things except sin. He is the mediator between myself and his servants, for in his own person he reconciles with me all who have sinned. He is my Son and the lamb, priest and victim, offerer and offering. He himself is both the sacrifice and the one who receives the sacrifice... Such was the Father's testimony to his only Son after his baptism in the Jordan... *(St Gregory of Antioch)*

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.

Communion Antiphon

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

Prayer after Communion

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.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Year A

11th January 2026

Today marks the end of the Christmas Season. On Tuesday, we celebrated the Epiphany of the Lord; the manifestation of Jesus to the world. Through their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, the Magi acknowledged Jesus to be God, King and the mortal one destined to die. Today, on the banks of the Jordan, we have another Epiphany. This time it is the Father Himself who speaks. Having poured the Holy Spirit on Jesus, the Father declares: "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you." Let us thank the Father for the gift of His Son, and welcome the 'Beloved One' into our lives. Let us acknowledge that through baptism we have been united with Christ and through his death and resurrection we have been reconciled to the Father. Let us truly live as his sons and daughters.

Entrance Antiphon

*After the Lord was baptized, 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.*

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized 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.

ISAIAH 42: 1-4, 6-7

Thus says the LORD: Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

‘I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.’

THE WORD OF THE LORD

The Baptism of Jesus at the Jordan is the anticipation of his baptism of blood on the cross, and it is the symbol of the entire sacramental activity by which the Redeemer will bring about the salvation of humanity... “Christ is baptized and the whole world is made holy,” sings today’s liturgy; “he wipes out the debt of our sins; we will all be purified by water and the Holy Spirit”.

There is a strict relationship between the Baptism of Christ and our baptism. At the Jordan the heavens opened to indicate that the Saviour has opened the way of salvation and we can travel it thanks to our own new birth of water and Spirit accomplished in baptism.

In it we are inserted into the Mystical Body of Christ, that is, the Church, we die and rise with him, we are clothed with him, as the Apostle Paul often emphasized. The commitment that springs from baptism is therefore “to listen” to Jesus: to believe in him and gently follow him, doing his will. In this way everyone can tend to holiness, a goal that constitutes the vocation of all the baptised.

(Pope Benedict XVI)

PSALM: 29(28):1-2. 3ac-4. 3b, 9b-10.11b

Response: *The LORD will bless his people with peace.*

Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly powers, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; bow down before the LORD, majestic in holiness.

The voice of the LORD upon the waters, the LORD on the immensity of waters; the voice of the LORD full of power; the voice of the LORD full of splendour.

The God of glory thunders; in his temple they all cry, ‘Glory!’ The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits as king for ever.

ACTS 10: 34-38

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ, he is Lord of all; you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.’

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: ‘This is my beloved Son; listen to him’. Alleluia!

MATTHEW 3: 13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from