

January 10, 2016      Baptism of the Lord

**He came to baptize in spirit and fire!**

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Psalms 29:1-4, 9-10

Acts 10:34-38

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

The prophecy of Isaiah speaks of the servant whom the Lord will uphold, the chosen one with whom He is well pleased. This servant will open the eyes of the blind and release prisoners from darkness. Justice shall be brought forth by his actions.

The psalmist calls for the sons of God to give to the Lord glory and praise, the full glory due his name. The voice of the Lord is mighty and majestic and he is enthroned as King forever.

In the house of Cornelius Peter explains that God shows no partiality. Whoever fears the Lord and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power and he did very many good things including healing those oppressed by the devil.

John the Baptist speaks of one mightier than himself who comes and baptizes with the Holy Spirit. After Jesus was baptized, the Spirit, like a dove, descends upon him as the heavens opened and a voice says, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."



God the Father speaks from heaven  
Affirming Christ Jesus, his Son.  
The Holy Spirit descends like a dove.

In an act of humility our Lord Jesus offered himself for baptism to John who recognizes something very special happening. Jesus is affirmed by the Father's voice from above and anointed with the Spirit. The presence of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit indicates the waters of baptism are now sanctified by our Triune God. It is by the water that we are born again and given new life, and by the Spirit, the Comforter, that we become children of God.

**He Baptizes in the Holy Spirit**

"Jesus' first public act...was to go down into the Jordan mingling among repentant sinners, in order to receive this baptism. Why, therefore, did the Father desire this? Was it because he sent his only-begotten Son into the world as the Lamb to take upon himself the sins of the world? (see John 1:29). The Evangelist recounts that when Jesus emerged from the waters, the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove, while the Father's voice from heaven proclaimed him "my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (Mt 3:17). From that very moment, therefore, Jesus was revealed as the one who came to baptize humanity in the Holy Spirit: He came to give men and women life in abundance (see John 10:10), eternal life, which brings the human being back to life and heals him entirely, in body and in spirit, restoring him to the original plan for which he was created.

The purpose of Christ's existence was precisely to give humanity God's life and his Spirit of love so that every person might be able to draw from this inexhaustible source of salvation. "(Pope Benedict XVI)

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