

January 12, 2020

## Baptism of the Lord

### The Lord is great: come, let us adore him!

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7

Psalm 29:1-4,9-10

Acts 10:34-38

Matt 3:13-17

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 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 many good things including healing those oppressed by evil.

Jesus comes to John to be baptized and while John hesitates Jesus insists. After Jesus was baptized, the Spirit, like a dove, descends as the heavens are opened up and a voice says, "This is my beloved Son; with whom 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 our Triune God sanctifies the waters of baptism.

The Father revealed to Jesus the responsibility of messianic leadership in the coming Kingdom of God where the Spirit will guide his actions. The responsibility calls for the solution of difficult problems, discovering and making known to the people, a divine ideal, one which could be explained in simple terms and understood by the common person. In the process Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, cast out evil spirits, and gave insightful lessons on life with simple stories; he opened the eyes of his listeners to a loving and personal Father, one he could relate to with the intimate word, "Abba." We need to open ourselves up to Baptism of the Spirit, the call to holiness, and be an affirming voice in the often-chaotic culture of our time.

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