

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

10 JANUARY 2021

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.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION cf. Jn 1:29
Alleluia, alleluia!
John saw Jesus approaching him, and said: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mk 1:7-11
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.

You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED
Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.
P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. 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

P. 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.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

PREFACE OF BAPTISM OF THE LORD

After the Preface, we sing or say:

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.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.
All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

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

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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.

R. 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 Jn 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. 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.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.
R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

SHARING GOD'S GIFT

One of the great recurring themes of the scriptures is that of God's irrepressible and untiring desire to bring us into the fullness of life. The reading from Isaiah is filled with images of the life God wants to share with us: water, grain, wine and milk without cost, a life-giving and nourishing word that never returns without achieving its purpose. This life is offered freely – all we need do is seek the Lord to share in this banquet.

For Christians, baptism is a sign of the new life that we have been graciously given through the death and resurrection of Jesus. One of the problems facing John's community was that of how to deal with false teachings which were dividing and weakening the community and the baptismal promises they had made. John seeks to remind them of the life they share through their baptism and the call to bear witness to it by their love for God and for their sisters and brothers.

In the birth of Jesus God's life-giving and nourishing word becomes one with us. His baptism marks a moment of grace for him and us. The heavens are opened and God's empowering Spirit comes upon him as he begins his ministry. God bears testimony to the life that he is pleased to offer us in the Beloved Son. At Jesus' baptism the voice from heaven proclaims how a time of new life and growth is beginning. For those with eyes to see the rich harvest is already beginning, and the banquet prepared.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD / B

'MY FAVOUR RESTS ON YOU.' Through baptism we are members of Christ's body. God says to us: 'You are my beloved son (daughter); my favour rests on you.' Often we don't hear these words as clearly as Jesus did at his baptism. In this Mass, and in the events of this day, let us listen for God's assurance that we are loved. Let us listen, that we may have life and joy in God.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Mt 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

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
P. Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom: Lord have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You come in word and in sacrament to strengthen us and make us holy: Christ have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You will come again in glory with salvation for your people: Lord have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

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

R. 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

P. 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 God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isa 55:1-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Come to the waters; listen to my words and you shall have life.

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.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Isa 12:2-6. R. v. 6

R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

1. 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. **R.**

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! / Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! / Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

3. 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. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Jn 5:1-9

A reading from the first letter of St John

The Spirit, the water and the blood give witness.

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,