

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YR B)

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (55:1-11)

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 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Is 12:2-6 R. v.3)

**R. 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. **R.**

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.**

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

A reading from the first letter of St John (5:1-9)

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.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

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

R. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
(1:7-11)

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.