

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YR C)

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (40:1-5.9-11)

‘Console my people, console them’
says your God.
‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
‘Here is your God.’
Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 103:1-2,3-4,24-25,
27-30. R. v.1)**

**R. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are.**

Lord God, how great you are,

clothed in majesty and glory
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. **R.**

Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariots,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servants. **R.**

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting
living things great and small. **R.**

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill. **R.**

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus
(2:11-14, 3:4-7)

God’s grace has been revealed, and it has made
salvation possible for the whole human race and
taught us that what we have to do is to give up
everything that does not lead to God, and all our
worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and
live good and religious lives here in this present
world, while we are waiting in hope for the
blessing which will come with the Appearing of the
glory of our great God and Saviour Christ Jesus. He
sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from
all wickedness and to purify a people so that it
could be his very own and would have no ambition
except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our Saviour for
mankind were revealed, it was not because he was
concerned with any righteous actions we might
have done ourselves; it was for no reason except
his own compassion that he saved us, by means of
the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us
with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously

poured over us through Jesus Christ our Saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation (Cf. Lk 3:13)

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I.

He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

R. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (3:15-16,21-22)

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.