

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

11th January, 2009

First Reading

Isa. 42:1-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom my soul delights.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: "I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 28:1-4, 9-10

Response: *The Lord will bless his people with peace.*

1. O give the Lord you children of God
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **R.**
2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **R.**
3. The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry, 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. **R.**

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.

Peter began to speak: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every

nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

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. 1:1-11

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

R. Glory to you Lord Christ

You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ.