

21 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – YEAR C

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40.1-5, 9-11

*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it.*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- 1 Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
- 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.
- 3 A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
- 5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
- 9 Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
- 10 See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 104.1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27+28, 29-30 (R.1)

R. O bless the Lord, my soul!

1 O Lord my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honour and majesty,
2 wrapped in light as with a garment.
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. **R.**

3 You set the beams of your dwelling place on the waters,
you make the clouds your chariot,
you ride on the wings of the wind,
4 you make the winds your messengers,
fire and flame your ministers. **R.**

24 O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
25 Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great. **R.**

27 Living things all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
28 when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. **R.**


29 When you take away their breath,
they die and return to their dust.
30 When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**

SECOND READING

Titus 2.11-14; 3.4-7

*God saved us through the water of rebirth
and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

11 The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
12 training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions,
and in the present age to live lives
that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 

13 while we wait for the blessed hope
and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour,
Jesus Christ.

14 He it is who gave himself for us
that he might redeem us from all iniquity
and purify for himself a people of his own
who are zealous for good deeds.

4 For when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared,
5 he saved us,
not because of any works of righteousness that we had done,
but according to his mercy,
through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

6 This Spirit he poured out on us richly
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,
7 so that, having been justified by his grace,
we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Luke 3.16

*This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.*

*John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*

GOSPEL

Luke 3.15-16, 21-22

*When Jesus had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened
and the Holy Spirit descended upon him.*

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.
He went into all the region around the Jordan,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

15 As the people were filled with expectation,
and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John,
whether he might be the Messiah,
16 John answered all of them by saying,
“I baptize you with water;
but one who is more powerful than I is coming;
I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

21 Now when all the people were baptized,
and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying,
the heaven was opened,
22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.
And a voice came from heaven,
“You are my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased.”

The gospel of the Lord.

When Epiphany is transferred to a Sunday which falls on 8 or 9 January, the Baptism of the Lord is transferred to the Monday immediately following. Only one reading before the gospel is used. The readings for the Sundays of Ordinary Time (see no. 66, page 672) begin next Sunday. See the Liturgical Calendar.