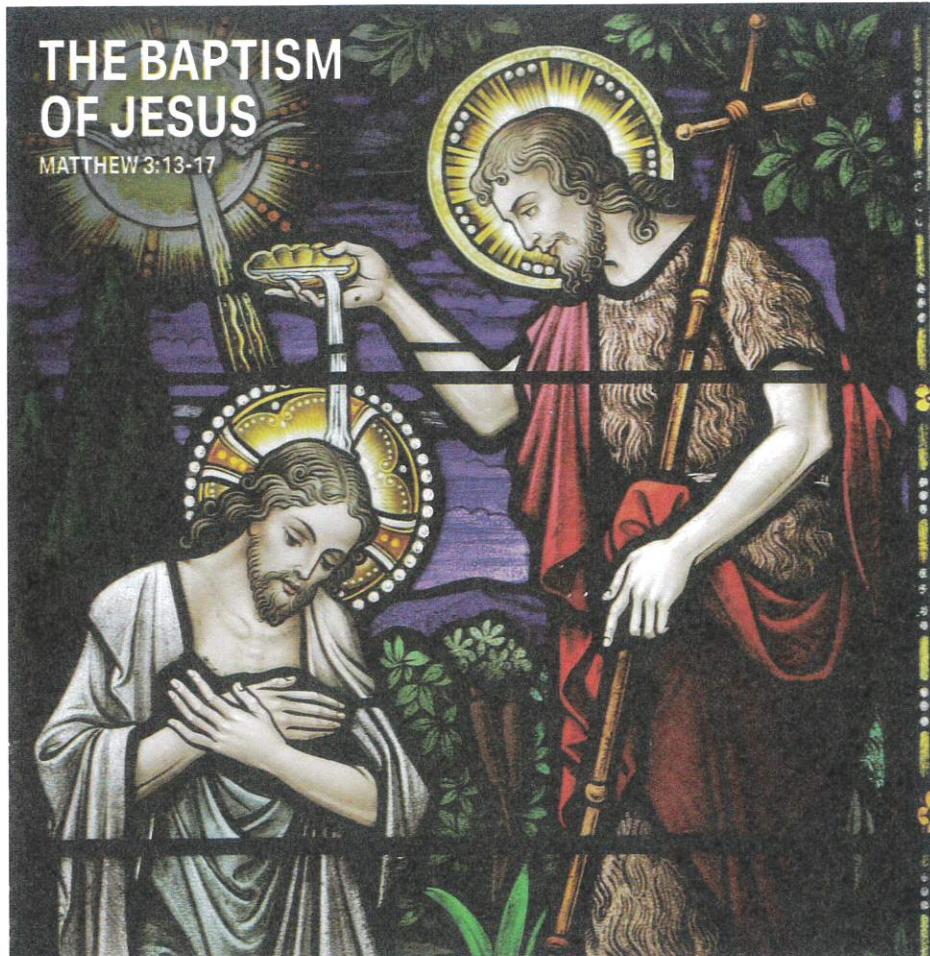


Sunday Message

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

THE WORD

Year A • 11 January 2026 • Psalter Week 1



This passage tells the story of Jesus being baptised by John in the River Jordan. At first, John doesn't want to do it – he feels unworthy. He knows Jesus is far greater than he is. But Jesus insists. He says, "Let it be so for now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness."

What does that mean? It means Jesus chooses to stand with us – with sinners, with the broken, with those in need of mercy – even though He Himself is without sin. His baptism is an act of humility and love. He doesn't need cleansing, but He enters the water to bless it for us all.

As Jesus rises from the water, something amazing happens. The heavens open, the Holy Spirit comes down like a dove, and the voice of the Father is heard: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

This moment shows us the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – united in love. It also shows us our true identity in baptism: we are God's beloved sons and daughters. Just as the Father delights in Jesus, He delights in us too. The baptism of Jesus reminds us that God comes close, not to judge, but to save. ■

DO

Take a moment today to remember your baptism – maybe bless yourself with water or say a prayer thanking God for making you His beloved child.



REFLECT

Why does Jesus come to be baptised? John the Baptist is confused – and so are we. Jesus is without sin. He doesn't need to repent. But He comes to the water anyway. Not to be cleansed, but to bless the waters of baptism for all who will follow.

This moment reveals something beautiful about Jesus. He doesn't stand apart from us – He steps into our mess. He chooses to stand with sinners, with the poor, with the broken. He begins His mission not with glory, but with humility. In His baptism, Jesus shows us the heart of God – a God who walks beside us.

And then, something holy happens. The heavens open. The Spirit descends like a dove. And the voice of the Father says: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

That voice is not just for Jesus. Through our baptism, it becomes a voice for us, too. God calls each of us His beloved. No matter our failures, our fears, our doubts – God looks on us with love.

So today, remember your baptism. You are not just someone in the crowd. You are known. You are loved. You are God's child. And like Jesus, you are called to live in that love, and to share it with the world. ■

LEARN

Jesus' baptism shows us that God loves us deeply and wants to be close to us. It reminds us that through baptism, we become God's beloved children called to live in His love.

SAY

Heavenly Father,
at Jesus' baptism, you declared Him
your beloved Son.
Help me to hear your voice calling
me your beloved too.
Fill me with your Spirit and guide
me to live with faith and love every
day.
Amen.

ENTRANCE ANTIphon

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.

COLLECT

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.

Amen.

Or

O God, whose Only Begotten Son has appeared in our very flesh, grant, we pray, that we may be inwardly transformed through him whom we recognise as outwardly like ourselves. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: Behold 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 aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

'I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for 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.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 29(28):1-2. 3ac-4. 3b. 9b-10. R. 11b

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

1. Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly powers, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; bow down before the Lord, majestic in holiness. **R.**
2. The voice of the Lord upon 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 sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits as king for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING Acts 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: 'Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all – you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL cf. Mark 9:7

R: *Alleluia, Alleluia.*

The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: 'This is my beloved Son; listen to him.'

R: *Alleluia.*

GOSPEL Matthew 3:13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIphon

*Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

Amen.