

THE WORD OF THE LORD : TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

At the Solemn Eucharist at Eleven o'clock

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The Old Testament reading is provided by the first Servant Song from Isaiah, which has long been recognized as informing the Synoptic account of the baptism of Jesus. Its emphasis on the bestowal of the Spirit on God's chosen one is clearly echoed in Matthew's account of Jesus's baptism, the Gospel for today. Compared with the parallel accounts in Mark and Luke, the Matthean account is quite distinctive, with its more extended dialogue between John and Jesus. Psalm 29 is used for this day in all three years because of its repeated emphasis on the voice of the Lord and the various ways its breaks through the natural order to be heard. It provides an excellent background against which to interpret the heavenly voice confirming the identity of Jesus as God's chosen one at his baptism. The second lesson for his day is provided by the Book of Acts in all three years. Today's selection is Peter's sermon to the household of Cornelius, remarkable as a rare mention of the baptism of Jesus outside the Gospels.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42.1-9

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 coastlines 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. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord

R/. Thanks be to God

PSALM 29—Afferte Domino; Tone VIII,1



- 1 AS-CRIBE unto the Lord, O ye **might**-y : ascribe unto the Lord **wor**-ship and strength.
- 2 Give unto the Lord the honour due unto his **Name** : worship the Lord with **Ho**-ly wor-ship.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the **wa**-ters :
it is the glorious God that maketh the thunder, even the Lord upon **ma**-ny wa-ters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in oper-**a**-tion : the voice of the Lord **is** a glo-rious voice.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaketh the **ce**-dar-trees :
yea, the Lord breaketh the **ce-dars** of Leba-non.
- 6 He maketh Lebanon to skip like a **calf** : and Sirion **like** a young ox.

- 7 The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shaketh the **wil**-der-ness : yea, the Lord shaketh the wilder-**ness** of Ka-desh.
- 8 The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to bring forth young, and strippeth bare the **for**-ests : in his temple doth every thing speak **of** his hon-our.
- 9 The Lord sitteth above the **wa**-ter-flood : and the Lord remaineth a **King** for ev-er.
- 10 The Lord shall give strength unto his **peo**-ple :
the Lord shall give his people the **bles**-ing of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 10.34-43

Peter began to speak to them: "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."

The word of the Lord

R/. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Matthew 3.17

Alleluia. Alleluia. A voice came from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3.13-17

R/. Glory be to thee, O Lord

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

The Gospel of Christ

R/. Praise be to thee, O Christ