

## THE WORD OF THE LORD : TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

*At the Liturgy at Nine Thirty*

### 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.*

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider:* Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit, keep your children, born of water and the Spirit, faithful to their calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*People:* Amen.

### 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*

### RESPONSORAL PSALM: 29



The Lord shall give his peo - ple the bless - ing of peace.

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. *R/.*

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour. *R/.*

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!" *R/.*

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore. The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. *R/.*

### 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 to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of Christ  
*R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

*Presider:* God of life and freedom, we celebrate the revelation of Jesus as the Christ who makes all creation new. Accept all we offer you this day and make us new in him, who is Lord for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Presider:* Gracious God, lover of all, by this sacrament you make us one family in Christ your Son, one in the sharing of his body and blood, one in the communion of his Spirit. Help us to grow in love for one another and come to the full maturity of the Body of Christ. We ask this in his name.

People: Amen.

