

The Baptism of the Lord

Gospel – Adapted from Mark 1:7-11

John the Baptist preached, saying, “Someone is coming after me who is mightier than I. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

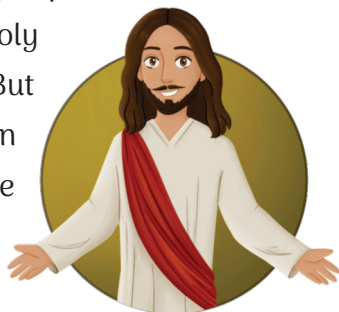


In those days Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the Jordan River. And when he came out of the water, immediately the heavens opened, and the Spirit came down upon him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, saying, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Reflection

A very interesting event happens in today’s Gospel. Jesus comes to John the Baptist to be baptized. Why? John was baptizing people for repentance of their sins. Jesus had no sin, so he certainly did not need to be baptized. Jesus had no sin to repent of, but we do. He displays amazing humility by going down into the water with sinners so that His people would follow His example.

Then something amazing happened. We get a glimpse of the entire Blessed Trinity – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus, the Son, was in the Jordan River. But as He is coming out, the Holy Spirit comes down from heaven in the form of a dove. And then the Father’s voice is heard: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”



This event gives us a clear picture of the reality of the Trinity. But something else wonderful happens, too. Jesus takes John's baptism and shows us what the sacrament of Baptism, which Jesus gives us, is like. When you were baptized, you received the Holy Spirit. He came to live in you. And you also became a child of God. At every Baptism, we can imagine God saying: "This is my beloved son (or daughter) in whom I am well pleased." God loves having children. He is pleased when anyone comes to Him in Baptism. Let us thank God for the gift of Baptism, and commit to living our lives like a child of God should.



Discussion Questions

Why does God want all people to be baptized and be His children?

Since we are children of God, what does that tell us about how special we are? How should we live our lives, as children of God?

Vocabulary

- **Baptism** – The sacrament of Baptism makes us children of God, part of His family, the Church. It frees us from sin, and God comes to live in us.
- **Humility** – Humility is a virtue in which we do not try to put ourselves above other people. A humble person will even lower himself for the good of someone else. Even though Jesus is God, He came to John for baptism, for the good of sinners.
- **Repentance** – Turning away from sin. John baptized people so they would turn away from sin, and be ready to accept Jesus.
- **Trinity** – Three Persons in one God. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all God.

Fill in the blanks

- 1 When Jesus came to be baptized by John, He demonstrated amazing _____.
- 2 We became children of God when we received the sacrament of _____.

3 The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit make up the Blessed _____.

4 John baptized people as a sign of their _____.

Quiz

1 True/False: Jesus needed to be baptized because He was a sinner.

- A** True
- B** False

2 What came down upon Jesus?

- A** Rain
- B** The Holy Spirit
- C** A bright cloud
- D** Angels

3 What did the Voice from heaven call Jesus?

- A** "My beloved Son"
- B** "The Lamb of God"
- C** "Jesus of Nazareth"
- D** "The Good Shepherd"

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M P O M T U M N P H S R V Y O
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L X I U K Z P L S V A G W I Y
J L V T V I Y E W W Y S V N U
Y O C V P S J R I C G I N I B
Y V O P P A P K R U M L M R V
Q I Z I F K B U E M B A Q T A
I M R N Z D M X P D C Q J B M
D I A W C L C A E Q E C M G R
T V B M E X F F N W N R B R H
Y T I L I M U H T X X S O F V
R U N B Q G I J A B B P Q F H
M R I L R I T E N N T T I Z D
V Y C G E V R W C P I D S I E
R M N Q N G M F E U V R Z H Y

BAPTISM

HOLY SPIRIT

HUMILITY

JESUS

REPENTANCE

TRINITY

Answers:

Fill in the blanks

- 1** Humility
- 2** Baptism
- 3** Trinity
- 4** Repentance

Quiz

- 1** B – False
- 2** B – The Holy Spirit
- 3** A – "My beloved Son"

