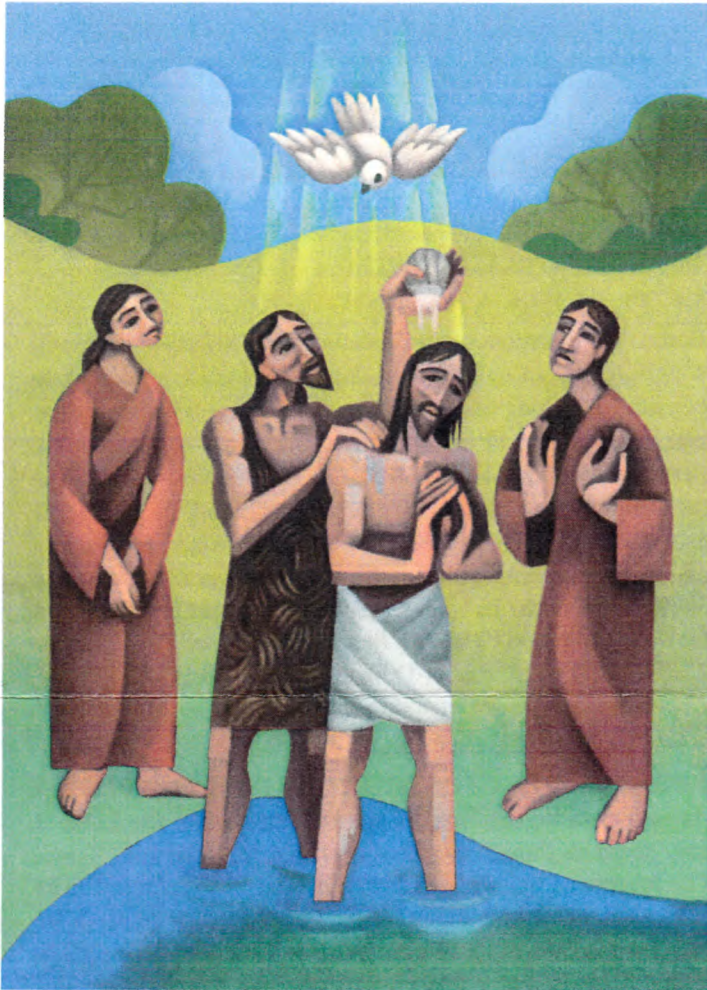


FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Awaken Your Love

God of all creation,
you are holy indeed and worthy of
all praise.

In the waters of the Jordan,
you revealed Jesus as your beloved Son,
the Light who banishes the darkness and
rules with justice.

Help us to acknowledge Christ and listen to
his voice,

so that we, who are saved in the waters
of rebirth,

might remain faithful to the covenant and
forever proclaim your saving deeds.

May the Holy Spirit rouse us to reject our
selfish impulses and worldly desires,
and by dying to self,

may our lives bear witness to your glory
and may we ceaselessly serve your people.

Give us zeal to proclaim your justice and
peace, your compassion and mercy,

your joy and generosity.

Awaken your love within us and inspire us
to be a people of hope.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, January 10, 2016

Beloved



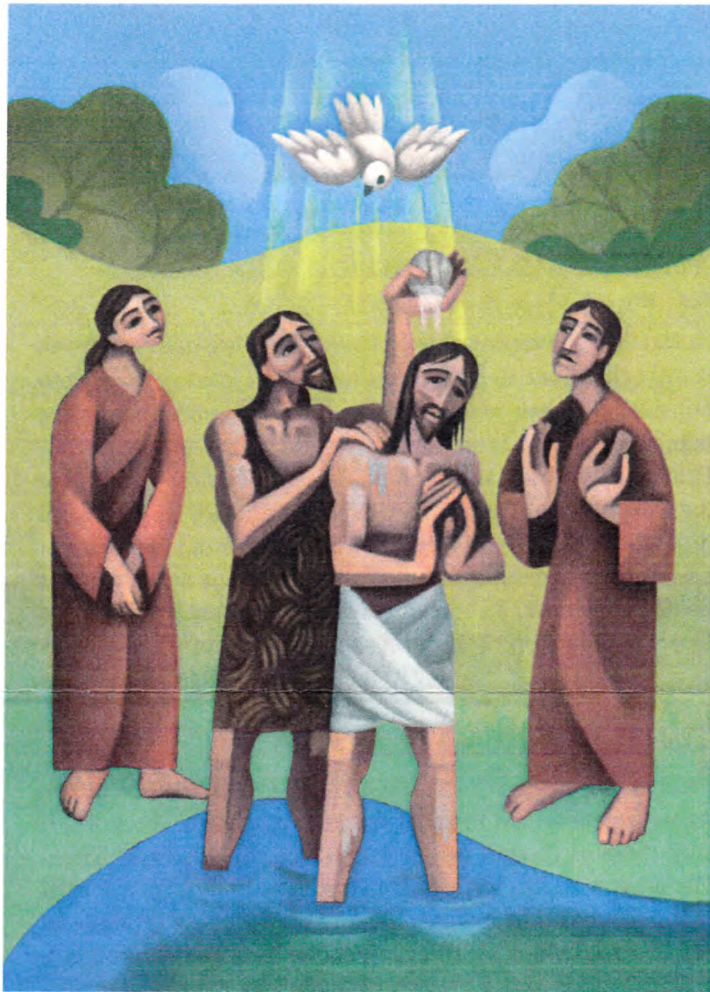
Today's Readings: Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7 or Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11; Psalm 29:1–2, 3–4, 3, 9–10 or Psalm 104:1b–2, 3–4, 24–25, 27–28, 29–30; Acts of the Apostles 10:34–38 or Titus 2:11–14; 3:4–7; Luke 3:15–16, 21–22. The readings for today draw us deeper into the mystery of the Incarnation while helping us consider our life in Christ. The First Reading announces the coming Messiah, who will set all free from bondage. In the Gospel, as the Father identifies Jesus as his beloved Son, the fulfillment of God's plan in Jesus is revealed.

God's power is manifest in Jesus Christ, who saves us from sin. Christ is also to be manifest in us. The Holy Spirit has renewed us in the waters of Baptism, and we are sent forth to radiate God's glory. In Baptism, we are plunged into

the waters of life, shedding our old self and rising to new life. As Paul writes in the Second Reading, we have become heirs to eternal life and share in the mission of Christ. This is a tremendous gift. Like the psalmist, we respond to God's love by saying, "Bless the Lord, O my soul."

At the close of this season and the beginning of Ordinary Time, delve deeper into these readings and ask yourself, "Do I take my Baptism seriously?" What does it look like to walk as a child of the Light? As a member of the Body of Christ, in what ways do you proclaim God's justice and peace? Finally, in your prayer this week, imagine God saying to you at your Baptism and now, "You are my beloved son/daughter and I love you!"

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