

## The Baptism of Our Lord

*He saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens,  
“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”*



### ***THE GOSPEL. Mark 1:7-11***

***John baptized Jesus with water.***

The Spirit broke through Earth's boundaries,  
rushed into the world of time, and  
told our universe again  
that

God is with us.

Spirit,  
tear open  
the heavens.  
Break through our  
set-in-stone boundaries,  
and descend into the depths  
of our hearts.

Pour rivers of grace on all of us.

### ***THE FIRST READING. Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Isaiah 55:1-11***

***All you who are thirsty, come to the water.***

We  
spend money  
on foods that don't satisfy.

We drink and we still  
thirst.

O God,  
you are the water  
that quenches;  
the food  
that  
delights.

Help us all come to the water;  
let us seek and find you.  
Bless our thirst.  
Let us drink.

***THE SECOND READING. Acts 10:34-38 or 1 John 5:1-9***

*In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.*

God,  
on the banks of the Jordan  
you showed us again your loving plan:  
your beloved Son  
for all people  
always.

Your love knows  
no  
bounds.

Help us lift all the  
boundaries we place in your path.

Anne Osdieck



The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings

The season of Epiphany is an invitation to reflect on the many little ‘epiphanies’, glimpses of how things really are, which are vouchsafed us in the Gospel. The first Sunday of Epiphany is a time to reflect on the moment when ‘the heavens opened’ at Jesus’ Baptism and we were given a glimpse of Father Son and Holy Spirit at the heart of all things. *Malcolm Guite*

## A Reflection by Pope Francis on today’s Feast

As soon as Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit alighted on him like a dove, as a voice from heaven said: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” ([Mt 3:17](#)). We rediscover our own Baptism in the Feast of the Baptism. Just as Jesus is the Beloved Son of the Father, we too, reborn by water and the Holy Spirit, know we are loved children—the Father loves us all! - the object of God’s satisfaction, brothers and sisters of many brothers and sisters, all assigned with a great mission to bear witness and proclaim the Father’s boundless love to all humankind.

[Pope Francis, Angelus Jan. 12, 2020](#)

*Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,  
upon whom I have put my spirit.*

([Isaiah 42:1](#))

**Christ Our Earth: A Poem to sit with. – J. Janda**

“I have come  
that  
you might have  
life  
and have it  
more  
abundantly

do not fear  
my little children  
I have overcome  
the darkness

the water  
that  
I shall give  
will  
turn into a  
spring  
inside you  
welling  
up to eternal  
life”

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among others,  
To make music in the heart.

~Howard Thurman

*JenniferALambert.com*