

*You are God's beloved.*



**First Reading:** (*Isa 55:1-11*) Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Harken diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in fatness. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Behold, you shall call nations that you know not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. "Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. "For as the rain and

the snow come down from heaven, and return not thither but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

**Isa 12:2-6**

**R. / With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

**Second Reading:** (*1 Jn 5:1-9*) Every one who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God, and every one who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the witness, because

the Spirit is the truth. There are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree. If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has borne witness to his Son.

**Gospel:** (*Mk 1:7-11*) John the Baptist preached: saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down

and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased."



## REFLECTION

The baptism of the Lord reminds us of our own baptism. The baptism of Jesus has a purpose and a deeper significance. It is in accordance with the divine plan of salvation. Even though sinless, Jesus became one of us to redeem us. Thus Jesus becomes the Lamb of God who bears our sins upon himself, lifts us from the weight of our burdens, frees us from our misery and our weaknesses, and strengthens us with the power and glory of God

By our baptism we belong to God, and not to Satan, that we are generated by God himself as his children, that we become members of the family of Jesus and share his life. Thus, **every baptized person must experience, nurture, radiate and increase -Grace and not sin, virtue and not vice, holiness not impurity. How faithful are we to our baptismal commitment?**