



The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
or Isaiah 55:1-11
Ps 29:1-4, 9-10
or Isaiah 12:2-6
Acts 10:34-38
or 1 John 5:1-9
Mark 1:7-11

Why was Jesus baptized? He wasn't in need of repentance. Why, for that matter, did Jesus do anything at all? Not just to save us from

our sins by dying on the cross! There is so much more to Jesus than that.

Jesus united himself to sinners. First he humbled himself to become one of us, a human being living with the same needs we have every day. Then he surrendered himself to the baptismal water so that when we are baptized, he is there in the water with us, raising us up to a new life, the holy life, everlasting life.

Everything that Jesus did shows us by example who we are: what the Father created us to be like and how we are to live as children of God. When Jesus was baptized and the Holy Spirit descended upon him and the Father said, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased," he showed us by example what happens at every person's baptism.

The Holy Spirit descended upon YOU and the Father said about YOU: "You are my beloved child; with you I am well pleased!"

Baptismal water is the womb of God from which we are reborn into his family and his ministry. When we bless ourselves with drops from holy water fonts, making the sign of the cross, we renew our baptisms.

In the Jordan River, Jesus was reborn from ordinary life to a life of ministry. Baptism does that for us, too. Is there some repentance you need to do so that you can be reborn more fully into what the Father created you to do – your divine purpose, the ministry he has called you to do?

Let us begin the Church Season of Ordinary Time with a renewal of our baptismal purification and commit-

ment, so that we may be renewed as followers of Christ in holiness and in ministry:



Do you reject Satan? And all his works? And all his empty promises?

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Next, use the following prayer (or one of your own):

"Dear God, I am a sinner. I sometimes fail to put You first in my life. Forgive me. Change me. Renew me. To demonstrate that I mean it, that I truly want You to be Lord of my life completely, I will do a special act, just as Jesus put his life fully into the Father's hands by surrendering to John's baptism and allowing his own rebirth. The act that I choose to do is _____ . Amen!"

And God the Father says of you: "This is my beloved son/daughter; with him/her I am well pleased!"