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Sunday after January 6
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
(First Sunday in Ordinary Time)

ABC

FIRST READING

Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

42:1-2, 4, 6-7

Here is my servant!

I have made him strong.

He is my chosen one, and I am pleased with him.

I will give him my Spirit,

and he will bring justice to the nations.

He won't shout or yell or call out in the streets.

He won't quit or give up until he brings justice to all the earth,
and people in foreign lands long for his teaching.

I, the Lord, chose you because of my kindness,
and I am here at your side.

I created and appointed you

to bring light and my promise of hope to the nations.

You will give sight to the blind

and set prisoners free from dark dungeons.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

29 :3abde-4, 3cde and 9ef-10

R. (see 11b) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The voice of the Lord

echoes over the oceans.

He thunders above the roar

of the raging seas,

and his voice is mighty

and marvelous.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The glorious Lord God

thunders above the roar

of the raging seas,
and the temple is filled
with shouts of praise.
The Lord rules on his throne,
king of the flood forever.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

SECOND READING

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34-38

Peter said to Cornelius and his household:

“Now I am certain that God treats all people alike.
God is pleased with everyone who worships him and does right,
no matter what nation they come from.
This is the same message that God gave to the people of Israel,
when he sent Jesus Christ, the Lord of all, to offer peace to them.

“You surely know what happened everywhere in Judea.
It all began in Galilee after John had told everyone to be baptized.
God gave the Holy Spirit and power to Jesus from Nazareth.
He was with Jesus,
as he went around doing good
and healing everyone who was under the power of the devil.”

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

See Mark 9:7

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The heavens were opened and the Father’s voice was heard:
This is my beloved Son, hear him.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

When Jesus had been baptized and had been praying,
the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

3:15-16, 21-22

Everyone became excited and wondered,
“Could John be the Messiah?”

John said, “I am just baptizing with water.
But someone more powerful is going to come,
and I am not good enough even to untie his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

After everyone else had been baptized,
Jesus himself was baptized.
Then as he prayed, the sky opened up,
and the Holy Spirit came down upon him in the form of a dove.
A voice from heaven said,
“You are my own dear Son, and I am pleased with you.”

The gospel of the Lord.

The Baptism of the Lord – Cycle ABC

Readings:

Isaiah 42:1-2, 4, 6-7

Psalm 29: 3abde-4, 3cde and 9ef-10

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Activity: 3-legged race.

Materials needed: Rope/scarves/ribbon to tie legs together

Instructions: Prepare a place where the children can move around but not get hurt. A long empty hallway would be a good spot. Pair the children. Have them stand side-by-side. Tie 1 leg of each child together. Line them up. Tell them where the finish line is but that there will be special instructions they have to follow on their way to the finish line. Say, "Go" then say, "stop". Tell them only the child on the left can go, the one on the right must stay put. After they try that for a while tell the person on the left to sit down while the person on the right tries to go. Then tell the person on the left to turn and go sideways while the person on the right tries to go forward. Finally tell them to either hold hands or put their arms around each other and move forward.

Questions and Reflections:

1. How well did it work when one of you wouldn't move while the other one was trying to go forward?
2. Did you make progress toward the finish line when you were trying to go in different directions?
3. What did you have to do to make it to the finish line?

Baptism is like the ropes that bound our legs together. It binds God to us. The rope that binds us together is the promises that God made to us and that we, through our parents and god-parents made to God. God promised to ALWAYS love us. Just as God said to Jesus at His baptism, God tells us that we are God's children; God loves us and is pleased with us. We promise to work together with God to be good people and to help others know how much God loves us all. Our 3-legged race showed us how important it is to work and stay with God. When we tried to go a different direction or stopped moving at all, we didn't make progress toward the finish line. Only when we took the other person's hand or put our arms around each other and worked together did we make progress. Notice too, that no matter what we did, the other person was still there, tied to us, just like God. Whenever we do something that is not good or stop doing what God wants us to do, God is still there, waiting for us to figure out how to walk with God again. You also may have been aware that once you and your partner got together and figured out how to move together that you went faster and stronger and had a lot more fun. Being with God is like that too. When we are moving with God we are stronger and happier. Stay with God and your life will be one amazing race!

Prayer:

Dear God,

At our baptism, you promised to always be with us and to always love us. We promise to try to always love you and to always walk with you.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen