

# Readings + Baptism of Our Lord, Lect. 1 C + Sunday, January 12, 2025

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

*Note: for this Bible study, in the reading from Isaiah and Psalm 29 we will follow the custom of not reading the Name of God aloud, but we will use the Hebrew "Adonai" (meaning Lord) instead of the English. However, we will put Adonai in small capitals, the same custom as our English translations when "Lord" stands in for the Holy Name. Interesting fact: "Adonai" is a plural noun in Hebrew!*

*The point of the exercise is to help understand that the word being replaced is the proper name of God as given to Moses and the Hebrew people, not a title, such as Lord.*

## First Reading Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says ADONAI,  
the one who created you, O Jacob,  
the one who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be  
with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not  
overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be  
burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
<sup>3</sup>For I am ADONAI your God, the Holy One of  
Israel, your Savior.  
I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in  
exchange for you.  
<sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight  
and honored and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
<sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;  
<sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away and my daughters  
from the end of the earth –  
<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

## Psalmody Psalm 29

Ascribe to ADONAI, you gods, ascribe to  
ADONAI glory and strength.

**Ascribe to ADONAI the glory due God's name;  
worship ADONAI in the beauty of holiness.**

The voice of ADONAI is upon the waters; the  
God of glory thunders; ADONAI is upon the  
mighty waters.

**The voice of ADONAI is a powerful voice; the  
voice of ADONAI is a voice of splendor.**

The voice of ADONAI breaks the cedar trees;  
ADONAI breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**ADONAI makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and  
Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

The voice of ADONAI bursts forth in lightning  
flashes.

**The voice of ADONAI shakes the wilderness;  
ADONAI shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of ADONAI makes the oak trees writhe  
and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of  
ADONAI all are crying, "Glory!"

**ADONAI sits enthroned above the flood;  
ADONAI sits enthroned as sovereign  
forevermore.**

ADONAI, give strength to your people; give them,  
ADONAI, the blessings of peace.

## Second Reading Acts 8:14-17

<sup>14</sup>Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard  
that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they  
sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup>The two went  
down and prayed for them that they might  
receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup>(for as yet the Spirit had  
not come upon any of them; they had only been  
baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup>Then

Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

## **Holy Gospel** Luke 3:15-17 [18-20] 21-22

*Only Luke has these first verses (but John touches on this similarly):*

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying,

*All four Evangelists (Mark omits “and fire”, John only has water):*

“I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

*Matthew and Luke:*

<sup>17</sup> With a winnowing fork in hand, he will clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into his granary; burning the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

*18-20 are optional verses. Verse 18 – unique to Luke – was included in the Gospel for 3 Advent this year. Verses 19-20 are similar in Mark and Matthew; Mark’s version shows up in the summer of year B.*

[<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, John proclaimed the good news to the people.

<sup>19</sup> But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by John because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup> added to them all by shutting up John in prison.]

*Matthew, Mark, Luke (but Luke adds “bodily form”, Matthew has “this is” not “you are”):*

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”