

Readings + Baptism of Our Lord, year A + 11 January 2026

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading Isaiah 42:1-9

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
 upon whom I have put my spirit;
 to bring forth justice to the nations.
² Not crying out or lifting up his voice,
 not making it heard in the street;
³ a bruised reed my servant will not break,
 nor quench a dimly burning wick;
 but will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴ My chosen one will not grow faint or be crushed
 until he has established justice in the earth;
 and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
⁵ Thus says God, ADONAI,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
 who gives breath to the people upon it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶ I am ADONAI, I have called you in righteousness,
 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
 a light to the nations,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸ I am ADONAI, that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to idols.
⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Psalmody Psalm 29

Note: in our English translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, the proper Name of the God of Israel, spelled by the Hebrew letters YHWH, is rendered "LORD" in small capital letters. The Jewish practice is to read "Adonai" aloud (Hebrew for "Lord") whenever the Name appeared in Scripture, so as not to dishonor the holy Name of God. To get a better sense of this psalm, which is sung to declare that YHWH is God, in a world of gods named all sorts of other things – "this One is God and no other" – we'll read it today with the Jewish word. This is also evident in the reading from Isaiah, which speaks specifically of the Name of God, so just for interest, we'll read it that way here today. On Sunday we'll sing it as printed in the service book, with LORD.

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.**

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

Second Reading Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Peter began to speak to *the centurion Cornelius and to his household*: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality,³⁵ but in every people anyone who is God-fearing and practices righteousness is acceptable to God.

³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,⁴⁰ but God raised Jesus on the third day and allowed him to appear,⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

⁴² Jesus commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained

by God as judge of the living and the dead.⁴³ All the prophets testify about Jesus that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Holy Gospel Matthew 3:13-17

All four evangelists tell of Jesus' baptism (John does it through a recalling by John the Baptist). Matthew, Mark, and Luke all are virtually identical; only Matthew has the part (vv. 14-15) where John tries to prevent Jesus from being baptized.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to Jesus and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him.

¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”