

Year A; Baptism of the Lord
Liturgical Elements
Developed for January 8, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Isaiah 42:1-9
- Psalm 29
- Acts 10:34-43
- Matthew 3:13-17

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 29*)

One: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

All: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.

One: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.

All: The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

One: The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

All: The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

One: The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

All: The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

One: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

All: May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace! Let us worship the LORD!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Acts 10*)

The Apostle Peter preached to the people in Caesarea that God shows no partiality but welcomes people of every nation who fear him and who do what is right and acceptable to God. We, though, often fail to fear God, to do what is right and acceptable to God, and to be impartial. Let us confess our sin to God.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(from Acts 10)*

God, our righteousness, you are impartial towards us — accepting all those who fear you and follow your ways. We are too often partial — preferring to accept those who are like us or who benefit us. We fail to fear you as we should, and we fail to strive for a righteousness according to your ways and not according to our own ways. Forgive us, we pray, and grow in us a healthy fear of you and desire to follow all of your ways. We pray this in the name of the one who was truly righteous, our Lord Jesus the Messiah. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Acts 10)*

The disciples were commanded to preach to the people and testify that Jesus is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. Believe in Jesus, trust in his forgiveness, and be reconciled to God. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from Isaiah 42)*

Merciful God, you could have sent a servant who would condemn the world. Though we rightfully deserved your condemnation, you have sent a Son with your spirit upon him who tirelessly works to bring forth justice to the nations, who is not overly emotional or loud, and who is careful and graceful. The coastlands surely await his teaching. With our gratitude, please receive these gifts that your servant's work may continue to completion. Amen.

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