

This Week's Scriptures

January 12, 2020

The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7 † Acts of the Apostles 10:34–38 † Matthew 3:13–17



Reflection by Mary Lanni OPA

Matthew gives us a very powerful picture of the day that Jesus walked into the Jordan River and was baptized by John. Following his immersion, Jesus was completely filled with the Holy Spirit and heard the voice of God identifying him as his son in whom he was well pleased. Peter, in Acts, preaching about the effects of that day, relates that word spread all over Judea about Jesus healing those who were oppressed and those suffering the effects of evil. Many became impassioned followers: Christians.

For some of us, our baptisms are far-away events, recalled only in photographs or movies showing a serene (or not) infant surrounded by adoring elders. They were our parents and support group who taught us much about our faith. However, the commitment as an adult to be a follower of Jesus is a very personal and unique one, mirroring our view of Jesus and his mission. Do we see Jesus as Isaiah did?

A bruised reed he shall not break...until he establishes justice on the earth....a light for the nations....to bring out prisoners from confinement and from the dungeon those who live in darkness.

This description impels us, who seek to be impassioned followers of Jesus, to always make working for justice, especially for the disadvantaged, a priority in our lives. Our baptism equips us to do it.