

BAPTISM OF THE LORD (FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY)

January 13, 2019



THE LESSON Isaiah 43:1-7

But now, says the LORD—the one who created you, Jacob, the one who formed you, Israel: Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched and flame won't burn you.

³I am the LORD your God, the holy one of Israel, your savior. I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place.

⁴Because you are precious in my eyes, you are honored, and I love you. I give people in your place, and nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Don't fear, I am with you. From the east I'll bring your children; from the west I'll gather you.

⁶I'll say to the north, "Give them back!" and to the south, "Don't detain them." Bring my sons from far away, and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷everyone who is called by my name and whom I created for my glory, whom I have formed and made.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 29

You, divine beings! Give to the LORD—give to the LORD glory and power!

¹Give to the LORD the glory due his name! Bow down to the LORD in holy splendor!

²The LORD's voice is over the waters; the glorious God thunders; the LORD is over the mighty waters.

³The LORD's voice is strong; the LORD's voice is majestic.

⁴The LORD's voice breaks cedar trees—yes, the LORD shatters the cedars of Lebanon.

⁵He makes Lebanon jump around like a young bull, makes Sirion jump around like a young wild ox.

⁶The LORD's voice unleashes fiery flames; ⁷the LORD's voice shakes the wilderness—yes, the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁸The LORD's voice convulses the oaks, strips the forests bare, but in his temple everyone shouts, "Glory!"

⁹The LORD sits enthroned over the floodwaters; the LORD sits enthroned—king forever!

¹⁰Let the LORD give strength to his people! Let the LORD bless his people with peace!

THE EPISTLE Acts 8:14-17

¹⁴When word reached the apostles in Jerusalem that Samaria had accepted God's word, they commissioned Peter and John to go to Samaria. ¹⁵Peter and John went down to Samaria where they prayed

that the new believers would receive the Holy Spirit. (¹⁶This was because the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen on any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) ¹⁷So Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

¹⁵The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. ¹⁶John replied to them all, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷The shovel he uses to sift the

wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out." . . .

²¹When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened ²²and the Holy Spirit came down on him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

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