

# The Living Word

**The Baptism of the Lord, Year A**

**11 January 2026**

## **First Reading** Is 42:1-4. 6-7

*Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.*

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.  
I have endowed him with my spirit  
that he may bring true justice to the  
nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,  
or make his voice heard in the streets.  
He does not break the crushed reed,  
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;  
he will neither waver, nor be crushed  
until true justice is established on earth  
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the  
cause of right;  
I have taken you by the hand and formed  
you;

I have appointed you as covenant of the  
people and light of the nations,  
to open the eyes of the blind,  
to free captives from prison,  
and those who live in darkness from the  
dungeon.

## **Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11**

**(R.)** *The Lord will bless his people  
with peace.*

1. O give the Lord you sons of God,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Adore the Lord in his holy court. (R.)
2. The Lord's voice resounding on the  
waters,  
the Lord on the immensity of waters;  
the voice of the Lord, full of power,  
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. (R.)
3. The God of glory thunders.  
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'  
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits as king for ever. (R.)

## **Second Reading** Acts 10:34-38

*God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

## **Gospel Acclamation** See Mk 9:8

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The heavens were opened and the  
Father's voice was heard:**

**this is my beloved Son, hear him.**

**Alleluia!**

## **Gospel** Mt 3:13-17

*When Jesus was baptised, the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God came upon him.*

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. A voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'



## **Reflection** by Fr Michael Tate

Let us focus on Jesus' mystical experience as he emerged from the waters of the River Jordan.

'Suddenly the heavens opened.' Heaven and earth are communicating again! If heaven appeared closed to humankind it is now open again. 'And he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him.' Jesus experienced a sense of being hovered over by the Divine presence 'in dove-like fashion'.

'And a voice spoke from Heaven: "This is my Son, the beloved, my favour rests on him".' In the Jewish tradition this sort of intuitive sensation is called the bat qol, the daughter of a voice, a whisper echoing heaven.

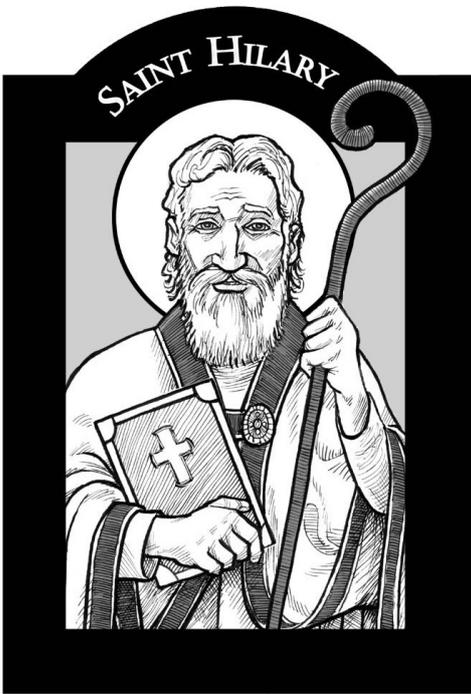
Each of us has shared in the baptism of Our Lord, been incorporated into His baptism. Divine love and power streamed from heaven to earth into each one of you; the Holy Spirit hovered gently over you; and deep down, at the intimate wellspring of your life, the Divine voice was heard whispering:

'You are my beloved daughter' or 'You are my beloved son,' 'My favour rests on you.'

We could pause for a moment to resolve to recall each morning the heavenly whisper at our baptism and then re-echo it in our lives.

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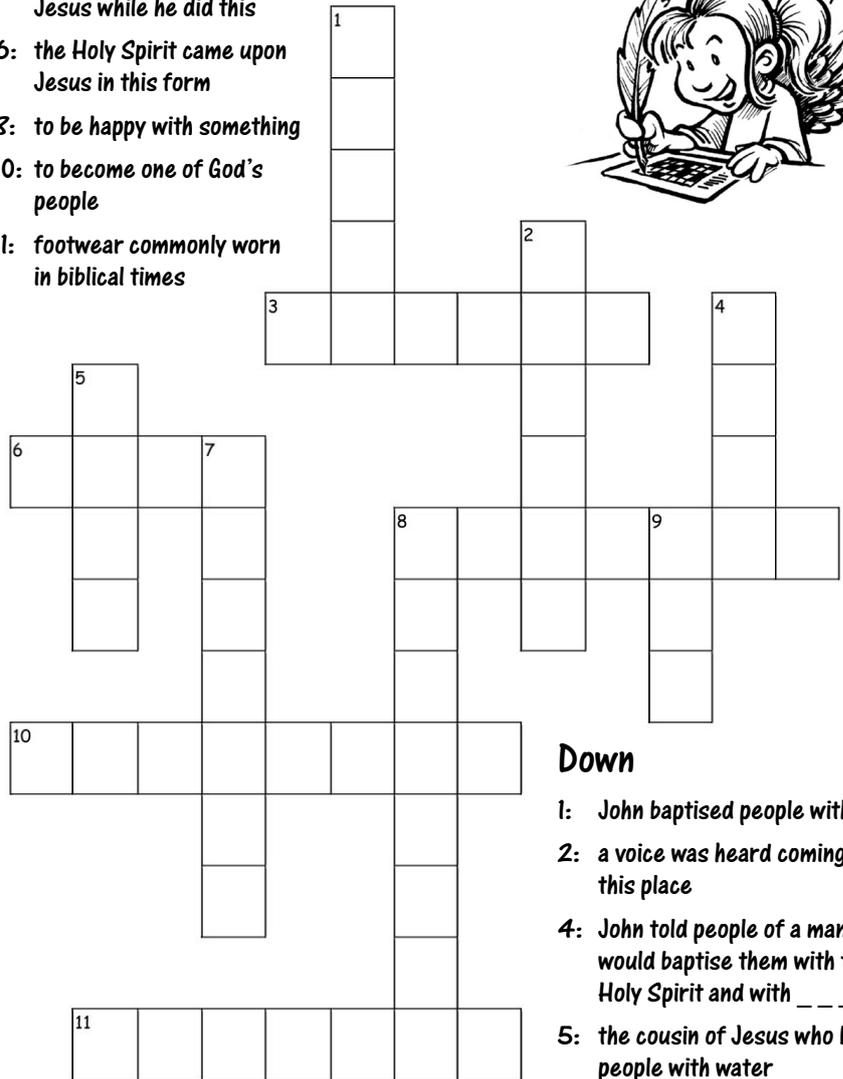


**S**t Hilary was born at Poitiers in c. 315 of a wealthy pagan family. He married and had a daughter and after many years of study, he converted to Christianity. In 353, Hilary was chosen bishop of Poitiers, and for the remainder of his days he became an outspoken defender of the faith against Arianism. He opposed Emperor Constantius' attempt to take control over church matters, which led to him being exiled to Phrygia. During this period, Hilary wrote works explaining the faith, and although severe in tone, his writings were responsible for converting many people. He returned to Gaul after four years in exile and continued his fight against Arianism. Hilary introduced Eastern theology to the Western Church, and was proclaimed Doctor of the Church in 1851.

# CROSSWORD

## Across

- 3: the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus while he did this
- 6: the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus in this form
- 8: to be happy with something
- 10: to become one of God's people
- 11: footwear commonly worn in biblical times



## Down

- 1: John baptised people with this
- 2: a voice was heard coming from this place
- 4: John told people of a man who would baptise them with the Holy Spirit and with \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5: the cousin of Jesus who baptised people with water
- 7: extremely happy
- 8: strong and mighty
- 9: the vast space above the earth

# Find Out



When were you baptised?

Where were you baptised?

Who are your Godparents?