

## Reader's notes

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*'IN THE SCRIPTURES,  
BY THE SPIRIT,  
MAY WE SEE THE SAVIOURS FACE,  
HEAR HIS WORD AND  
HEAD HIS CALLING,  
KNOW HIS LOVE AND  
GROW IN GRACE.'*

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### The Gospel

**Matthew: 3:13-17**

This feast is an extension of the Epiphany reflection. Today's gospel is Matthew's account of the epiphany of the adult Jesus before John the Baptist and other devout Jews

The Psalm Response, "The Lord will bless his people with peace" suggest the focus is on the demonstration that Christ has been sent by the Father. But the readings themselves have many possible themes, I propose only one of them

### First Reading

**Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 24:1-2, 8-12**

Near the end of a desperate period of exile, God calls the Jews to be his servant and gives them an unexpected mission. The passage raises these questions:

What is the servant's relationship to the Lord? (The Lord chooses the servant, upholds him, is pleased with him, gives the servant his spirit, forms the servant.)

What is the servant to accomplish? (Establish justice on the earth, open the eyes of the blind, release prisoners and those in darkness.)

How is the servant to behave? (Not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard, not breaking the bruised reed or quenching the smouldering wick; these are images of gentleness and patient understanding in the servant's dealings with those to whom he is sent.)

What is the scope of the servant's mission? Wider than merely to the people of Israel. This is the meaning of "coastlands" and of "a light for the nations."

**Your Proclamation:** I recommend that the lector try to evoke the idea that Israel is being challenged to reach outside itself, and to become God's instrument in a mission to other peoples. This was not a welcome development. However, it's a logical consequence of what has gone before. If Israel's

# The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

### Readings

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/readings/?feature=sunday>

### Notes:

[https://lectorprep.org/baptism\\_of\\_the\\_lord\\_yrABC.html](https://lectorprep.org/baptism_of_the_lord_yrABC.html)

Lord is the only "real" god, then the Lord is God over the pagan worshipers of other gods, and the Jews, willing or not, are the only people qualified to show the pagans this truth. In your proclamation, this calls for an emphasis on the "mission" aspects, on "nations," "the earth," "coastlands," and "the people."

### Second Reading,

**Acts 10:34-38**

In separate visions, God has called Peter the Jewish Christian apostle and Cornelius the pagan centurion to meet each other. It's an unlikely pairing and it breaks old precedents.

Your proclamation will be better if you walk a mile in Peter's sandals first by reading all of Acts, Chapter 10. You'll see what a big change Peter had to go through before he could speak to this group. Both Peter the Jewish Christian, with his typical contempt for Gentiles, and Cornelius, a Gentile distantly respectful of Jews, needed simultaneous supernatural visions to prepare them for this meeting. *So for Peter the big revelation is the same as one of the themes of the Isaiah passage, above, "God shows no partiality, and accepts whoever is God-fearing and acts uprightly."*

**Your Proclamation:** For Peter, it wasn't meditation on Isaiah 42 that proved this. It was his relationship with Jesus, and his meditation on Jesus' life, from his baptism through his resurrection. So proclaim this like Peter delivered it originally, with the conviction of one who has had the "Aha!" experience, who finally sees it all clearly.

### Next Readers Session: January 18<sup>th</sup> 11 am

**18<sup>th</sup> January** is the beginning of the Church Unity Week  
**26<sup>th</sup> January** is **Word of God Sunday** It is appropriate that Matthew would be the special focus of your private reading of scripture this year.

There will be a special lecture on Matthew on the evening of Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January, I would recommend this to all Readers as worth attending.

*The link to the readings is a temporary one, it will bring you to the correct readings **only** for the week leading up to the Sunday in question. (its a copyright thing)*