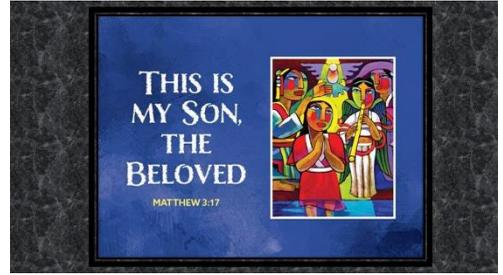


## The Readings on This Day

*\*\*\*Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

### Baptism of Our Lord

During Year A of the lectionary, most of the gospel readings come from the gospel of Matthew.



The post-Christmas standard Sundays of the year begin with a narrative of Jesus' baptism, just as in the church, our life as Christians begins with baptism. This Sunday is a most appropriate time to schedule parish baptisms.

### [Isaiah 42:1-9](#)

The first Servant Song is appointed because Christians have seen in it a description of Jesus Christ, the one chosen by God to bring forth justice throughout the world. By baptism, believers are called into the way of Christ to be a new creation, to receive the name of God and become lights in the world.

### [The Psalm for the Day](#)

We respond to the second Servant Song by singing [Psalm 29](#), which praises the Lord, that is YHWH, with phrases that appear to have been adapted by the Israelites from the worship of the Canaanite weather deity Baal. The psalm moves from a god of the storm to a God who blesses the people with peace. The second reading and gospel indicate how Christians have enlarged the meaning of "peace" to refer to reconciliation with God.

### [Acts 10:34-43](#)

This passage from Acts is chosen to coordinate with the gospel from Matthew 3. The sermon put into Peter's mouth places baptism as the beginning of Christian ministry. All who believe in the name of Jesus receive forgiveness.

### Matthew 3:13-17

At his baptism, Jesus hears the voice of God, receives the Spirit of God, and is acclaimed Son of God. For Christians, this narrative illumines Christian baptism, when believers also are adopted as children by the name of the triune God.