



Opening Prayer

Leader calls us to quiet prayer, reflecting that we are now, as always, in God's holy presence.

SONG (*from the Rite of Baptism*):

**This is the fountain of life,
water made holy by the suffering of Christ,
washing all the world.**

**You who are washed in this water
have hope of heaven's kingdom.**

**You have put on Christ,
in him you have been baptized.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

SCRIPTURE READING (Mark 1:4-11)

+ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist.

He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed:

"One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit."

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John.

On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens,

"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

REFLECTION (*all reflect on the reading for 1-2 minutes in silence*)

PSALM RESPONSE (Psalm 20: 1-4, 9-10):

Men: Give to the LORD, you heavenly beings, give to the LORD glory and might;

Women: Give to the LORD the glory due God's name. Bow down before God's holy splendor!

Men: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders over the mighty waters.

Women: The voice of the LORD is power; the voice of the LORD is splendor.

Men: The LORD sits enthroned above the flood! The LORD reigns as king forever!

Women: May the LORD give might to his people; may the LORD bless his people with peace!

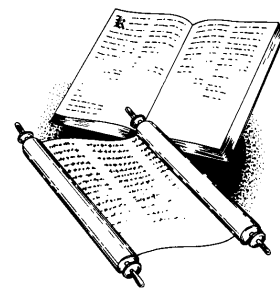
PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, you revealed Jesus Christ as your Son
by the voice that spoke over the waters of the Jordan.

May all who share with Christ in being your beloved children
follow in his path of loving service to others

and reflect the glory of your kingdom to the ends of the earth.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Closing Prayer

Leader calls us to a few moments of quiet reflection.

REFLECTION (from Pope Benedict XVI):

“It is not power but love that redeems us. This is God’s sign; he himself is love.
How often we wish that God would be stronger,
that he would defeat evil and create a better world.
We suffer on account of God’s patience.
Yet, remember, the world is redeemed by the patience of God.”

SCRIPTURE READING (Mark 9:17-24)

Someone from the crowd [said to Jesus], “Teacher, I have brought to you my son possessed by a mute spirit. Wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they were unable to do so.”
Jesus said to them in reply,
“O faithless generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I endure you? Bring him to me.”
They brought the boy to him. And when he saw him, the spirit immediately threw the boy into convulsions. As he fell to the ground, he began to roll around and foam at the mouth.
Then he questioned his father, “How long has this been happening to him?”
He replied, “Since childhood. It has often thrown him into fire and into water to kill him.
But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”
Jesus said to him, “‘If you can!’ Everything is possible to one who has faith.”
Then the boy’s father cried out, “I do believe, help my unbelief!”

INTERCESSIONS:

- ❖ For a quick resolution to the conflict in the Middle East. Let us pray to the Lord.
Resp: Lord, Hear Our Prayer
- ❖ For the Bible Institute participants and their families, that they may find Joy in the Gospel.
Let us pray to the Lord. *Resp: Lord, Hear Our Prayer*
- ❖ For the instructors and facilitators, that they always have the enthusiasm needed to inspire us.
Let us pray to the Lord. *Resp: Lord, Hear Our Prayer*
- ❖ For the mother-in-law of Susan Scora from Palm Springs, who passed away Wednesday morning. May she rest in peace, we pray to the Lord. *Resp: Lord, Hear Our Prayer*

PRAYER:

You are Great Mystery, O God.
We do not understand your ways and we are not very patient.
Help us to place our faith in you, believing that you always do what is best for us.
Give us the patience we need to live and grow in this faith.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.