

# Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



## Homily Helps for the Petitions of The Baptism of the Lord, Cycle C (12 January 2025)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**Isiah 42:** Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, ... Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; ... Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

**Psalm 104:** O Lord, you have constructed your palace upon the waters, you make the clouds your chariot.

**Titus 2:** When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, ... he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus...

**Luke 3:** After all the people had been baptized, Jesus also had been baptized and was praying.... And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

#### † Comment for the day:

We all know that water is essential for life. We humans are currently spending lots of money and lots of time searching our solar system, and even planets beyond in our universe, to find water. Water covers most of our earth, but it is proving hard to find in the great beyond. Unfortunately, while we are searching for that basic liquid elsewhere, we are polluting it here with plastics and oils, mine filings and coal ash, chemicals and trash.

If water is essential for physical life, it is central also to life in Christ through the sacrament of baptism. Clean river and lake water washes our bodies outside. When taken in, it nourishes our organs inside and enables their life-giving processes. Water slakes the thirst of our planet and our bodies, making them fertile and fruitful. Because Jesus came to bring us abundant life, it is no wonder that he insisted on being baptized himself, not so much to be cleansed as to be filled with joy and ready to share life with others by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Appreciation of our own baptism brings us great joy.

Among the many dimensions of care for our common home, water is basic. As careful as we are about all the details of preparing for baptism, we need to be equally attentive to the quality of earth's water. Our responsibility to make clean water available to all our brothers and sisters is not unlike Jesus final command to his disciples: make disciples of all nations, baptize them, enable them to draw water for both body and soul joyfully, from the springs of salvation.

As John the Baptist baptized Jesus, so we are all baptized in Christ by his love. Part of our responsibility as disciples to Jesus is a call to baptize others with water, clean water, body and soul healthy

† **Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:**

28. Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life... Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry.

29. One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor. Every day, unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases, including those caused by microorganisms and chemical substances.

30. Even as the quality of available water is constantly diminishing, in some places there is a growing tendency, despite its scarcity, to privatize this resource, turning it into a commodity subject to the laws of the market. Yet access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, ... water.

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That all of us will support efforts to keep earth's water clean and drinkable for all, remembering the water of our baptism and the importance of water for every form of life, we pray to the Lord...

**Option 2:** That all of us blessed to be baptized will celebrate daily the constant pouring forth of the Spirit so all who thirst will come to the water with us to experience the endless flow of God's love, let us pray to the Lord...

### Further Resources

Feedback: [IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com](mailto:IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com)

Webpage: [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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