

January 6 Friday

Reading 11 JN 5:5-13

Beloved: Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came through water and Blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and Blood. The Spirit is the one who testifies, and the Spirit is truth. So there are three that testify, the Spirit, the water, and the Blood, and the three are of one accord. If we accept human testimony, the testimony of God is surely greater. Now the testimony of God is this, that he has testified on behalf of his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has this testimony within himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar by not believing the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever possesses the Son has life; whoever does not possess the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you so that you may know that you have eternal life, you who believe in the name of the Son of God.

Responsorial Psalm PS 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

R. (12a) **Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Glorify the LORD, O Jerusalem;

praise your God, O Zion.

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;

he has blessed your children within you.

R. **Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

He has granted peace in your borders;

with the best of wheat he fills you.

He sends forth his command to the earth;

swiftly runs his word!

R. **Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

He has proclaimed his word to Jacob,

his statutes and his ordinances to Israel.

He has not done thus for any other nation;

his ordinances he has not made known to them. Alleluia.

R. **Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Alleluia MK 9:6

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered:

This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel MK 1:7-11

This is what John the Baptist 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:

Jesus who is without sin receives baptism from John the Baptist by receiving it, Jesus the sinless man identifies himself with the sinful humanity. With this gesture, he affirms that he is with us in our human condition and he understands fully what it means to be human. By receiving baptism, Jesus dies to sin and death, so the liturgy of today remains us the need to purify ourselves from sins. Just as Jesus died to sin. Every follower of Christ should make every effort to be free from sin in its diverse manifestations. By receiving baptism, Jesus receives the indwelling of the spirit. It is with the power of the spirit that he began his ministry; it is the spirit who guided Jesus in all the phases of his earthly life to do the will of his father. Similarly, our baptism will enable us to be empowered by the spirit. At the same time of baptism, Jesus hears a voice from above: "you are my son, my beloved one, with whom I am well pleased" this is a divine confirmation of Jesus divinity. Similarly, by Baptism, we become members of the family of God, sons and daughters of the Father and so brothers and sisters of one another. This new identity and belongingness bring with them new responsibilities: we become keepers of our brothers and sisters.