

Commentary: Feast of Baptism of the Lord
1st Sunday Ordinary Time – Year C

First Reading: Is 42:1–4, 6–7 or Is 40:1–5, 9–11

Response: Ps 29:11b or Ps 104:1

Psalm: Ps 29:1–4, 9–10 or Ps 104:1b–4, 24–25, 27–30

Second Reading: Ac 10:34–38 or Tt 2:11–14; 3:4–7

Gospel: Lk 3:15–16, 21–22

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “**You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.**”

From Neal Lozano's *Abba's Heart*: Jesus' mission is to bring us to the Father. He revealed the heart of the Father. Our greatest need is to hear our heavenly Father respond to us and tell us that He loves us... something deep in our spiritual DNA cries out for our Father (21). “All of us possess a longing for home – a place where we know we belong, where we can freely be ourselves, where we are known most intimately and loved and accepted for who we are” (100). You have a home in the centre of the Father's heart (109). Let the Father look at you – Allow the Father to look at you, remembering that you are in the Son. Allow yourself to be filled with an awareness of His delight for you as His favourite child. Ask Him: “Father, what happened today that brought You pleasure? What did I do that delighted your heart?” (213)

What do you think went on in Jesus' mind when He heard the voice from Heaven – “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”? I think He must have felt the joy and love that comes from any son hearing these precious words from their father. In fact, all of us long to hear these words... daily. Maybe your father has never told you words along the line of that you are his beloved son with whom he is well pleased. This can be a frustrating reality. Nevertheless, God wants to tell us. Today. When we receive Christ in the Eucharist. When we abide in Him and He in us, God the Father looks at us as His beloved son. Listen to Him. Spend some time in prayer. You are His beloved son. He delights in you. He loves you deeply. As if you were his only son.