

REFLECTION: I remember a time when I chose the path of light over darkness and death.
I remember... I remember...

OUR FATHER

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus, you said to your apostles: “I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **grant us peace.**
This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:
Lord,
Help us to refresh ourselves by taking a plunge into the thoughts, words, and actions of your Son, Jesus. Let him bless us with the Holy Spirit and allow the fire of our faith to burn deep within us.

We ask this through Jesus, our Savior. **R. Amen.**

The Baptism of the Lord

Cycle C | January 12, 2025

WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

Violence and gangs have been a part of my life since I can remember. My uncles and cousins were in gangs, and fighting was the way to settle arguments. The worst beatings I got were from my father for fighting in school, yet I was praised by him for winning a fight across the street from my house. This affected my thought process. A father’s praise is yearned by a son. To this day with God in my heart, I still yearn to settle things with violence. When I feel like this, I instantly ask God for forgiveness and flood my thoughts with prayer to change my thought process.

Presently, I am going through the most difficult time of my life; changing from being an uncaring, convicted criminal, who has only been free 3 years altogether since I was 12 years old, to being a God-fearing Christian, who wants to love no matter what, who wants to leave his past behind and live how God wants me to. I starve for my freedom to serve God in peace.

God has truly blessed me with a surmountable amount of love when I have been surrounded by darkness in here. He has given me hope to mend the relationships that have suffered as a result of my imprisonment, and the courage to correct my mistakes instead of running from them. He has shown me that he is with us no matter what. Now I feel comforted and full of faith when I pray to God. I am blessed.

- Hugo, who is in a California State Prison.



PENITENTIAL RITE

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:
Lord,
Lead us to renew our baptism in choosing new life in Jesus. Give us the strength to overcome the darkest with your burning fire and bless us with the Holy Spirit.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-73

Thus says the LORD: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Acts 10: 34-38

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 29: 1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Give to the LORD, you sons of God,
give to the LORD glory and praise,
Give to the LORD the glory due his name;
adore the LORD in holy attire.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters,
the LORD, over vast waters.
The voice of the LORD is mighty;
the voice of the LORD is majestic.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The God of glory thunders,
and in his temple all say, “Glory!”
The LORD is enthroned above the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as king forever.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, “I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

MEDITATION: A NAME, A CHANGE

from the eyes of daniel	we pray to the dark one this <i>paisa</i> ignored me	came alive i saw him beating my mother i could actually feel his punches to my face i wanted to breathe but i couldn't	with this baptism
i didn't want to go see this one but my mother still had the power to drag me and my two brothers to the water	john, <i>primo</i> let's go jesus took his sandals off and pointed at me something about his eyes told me not to mess with him	i saw my mother's face i saw her by the window waiting for me all night to come back home from all my foolishness i saw the harm i had caused to so many	finally jesus took his hands off my head and i emerged from the river from the darkness i was baptized
i looked into her eyes and they were sad her face carried a certain heaviness that was strong	so i began to wade into the water with john my family and jesus	who am i? screaming below the river it was totally dark then i felt the hand of this <i>campesino</i> on top of my head it was strong and firm a voice saying: daniel you need to change let go of all your hate your anger is killing you in every way	my mother looked at me and she knew something had changed
we walked down the hill and came to the shore of the river	this was too much	inside myself i said yes <i>paisa</i> you win i do let go of all this evil it has only made me more destructive and so far from really being happy or peaceful	her son who always had an attitude who was always angry was actually smiling
i could not believe it my mom was getting me into this religious stuff	i was just glad none of my homeboys can see me now their tattooed horns would burn them to death	i have been miserable but when i looked into your eyes at the bank of the river i saw a peace that i have longed for all my life	i went over to my mother and i whispered: i am sorry, forgive me and she said the most important words i have ever heard: of course, son i forgive you
standing right next to me was a <i>paisa</i> he looks like he was from some hick village	we got into the middle of the river	yes jesus i do want to be happy i can't lie the way i live has only let me fall into self-hate so deep that i am afraid of it	at that very moment a voice vibrant sounded from above: this is my beloved son listen to him
he stood looking out at this crazy preacher called john the baptist	jesus asked what my name was i told him they called me ghost	for all my life	it all made sense of course this is god's beloved son and he is inviting me to be his brother and son of his abba
after submerging a young woman in the strange rite of baptism john the one baptizing comes over and says <i>primo</i> jesus? whom they called chuy what are you doing here?	he asked me how old i was and why i was so angry	jesus says let's begin	i looked over at chuy for the first time after the baptism oh yes of course he knew... big <i>paisa</i> you win
this <i>paisa</i> chuy says john i want to be baptized but not alone i want this family next to me to go with me into the water	here i was in the middle of the river and a <i>campesino</i> from nazareth with a strong accent and dark skin is asking me why i'm so angry	john the baptist shoves all five of us below the river i was just about to complain to myself again when it happened	and jesus my name is daniel
i could not believe this just wait a minute, homes this is not my thing i am from jordan locos this is not my thing	i was under the water like in a dream the face of my father	jesus help me change	

