

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7**

But now thus says the LORD,  
 he who created you, O Jacob,  
 he who formed you, O Israel:  
 Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
 I have called you by name, you are mine.  
<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will  
 be with you;  
 and through the rivers, they shall not  
 overwhelm you;  
 when you walk through fire you shall not  
 be burned,  
 and the flame shall not consume you.  
<sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God,  
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
 I give Egypt as your ransom,  
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
<sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight,  
 and honored, and I love you,  
 I give people in return for you,  
 nations in exchange for your life.  
<sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you;  
 I will bring your offspring from the east,  
 and from the west I will gather you;  
<sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
 and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
 bring my sons from far away  
 and my daughters from the end of  
 the earth—  
<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name,  
 whom I created for my glory,  
 whom I formed and made."

**Psalm 29****SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17**

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup>The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup>(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup>Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>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."

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11.

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