



SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7
Psalm 28: 1-4, 9-10
Acts 10: 34-38
Matthew 3: 13-17



"In families,
we learn to experience
the basic practices
needed for
a Synodal Church."

FD #35

INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY
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'A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smouldering wick he will not quench,' shows a servant of compassion and steadfastness. **The servant's mission is to establish 'a covenant for the people, a light for the nations.'** And his work is one of liberation 'to free the captives, and to give sight to the blind,' amongst all social justice.

The vision comes to life at the River Jordan. Paradoxically, we see Jesus the Sinless One, being given a baptism of repentance by John the Baptist. But Jesus takes it on 'to fulfil all righteousness.' By plunging into the water, Jesus sanctifies it from within even as he stands in solidarity with us, humanity in our fallen state.

The baptism of Jesus thus marks the beginning of his public ministry, where He is revealed by the Father as *His Beloved Son, the humble servant* foretold in Isaiah's vision. The baptism also reveals the movement of the Holy Spirit as he descends upon Jesus.

What is our takeaway this week? That our baptism connects us to two essential aspects of our identity: An inward reality which is, building us into the Body of Christ, and an outward mission, commissioning us to be the Light of the World and the Salt of the Earth. That is to say, when we are baptised in the name of the Trinity, we become beloved children of the Father, the foundational touchstone of all that we are about as Christians. We belong to one another even as we share in Christ's mission, supporting each other with the gifts we are endowed with. With the Spirit within us, we are to be gentle, quiet and compassionate as we go about our God-given vocation, *not crying out, not shouting, not making our voice heard in the street.*

May we emulate Christ, savour His Word in scriptures, and walk in his footsteps as the Beloved of the Father, and Servant to all.✝

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NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | The Baptism Of The Lord | 11 January 2026

WALKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A SYNODAL AND PROPHETIC CHURCH

A People for Missionary Discipleship

MONTHLY FOCUS: FAMILY: Building Trust

The Beloved Son, A Humble Servant

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, the readings point to a prophecy of Isaiah, and its fulfilment at the River Jordan. Isaiah envisions a Servant-Messiahship blueprint. God presents his servant with characteristics that contrast worldly expectations.

