



*The Baptism of the Lord  
January 10, 2010*

First Reading ~ Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

“Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.”

Responsorial Psalm 104:1-b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30:

“O bless the Lord my soul.”

Second Reading ~ Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

“He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,”

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

And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Comfort, expectation, hope and renewal are the words that speak to me throughout the readings for “The Baptism of the Lord”. The first reading includes not only the words, “comfort to my people” but speaks of comfort for people perhaps using creation as a metaphor, “the rugged land shall be made a plain.” Perhaps in the ruggedness of life somehow things can be made plain and simple. The responsorial psalm continues with the many gifts of creation that renew our earth and us. It speaks of the gifts of water, sea, clouds, wind and fire. It continues with living things both small and great, food and breath which are all essential for life. “When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.” As a people and as creation we live to be renewed and we are renewed in order to live.

The second reading moves us to expectation, hope and renewal as Titus says, “We await the blessed hope” and “he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.” This leads to our most beautiful Gospel of today as “people were filled with expectation” and “Jesus also had been baptized.” Baptism is our initial sacrament as Catholics and it is in our baptism that all else is possible. So let us take comfort in this sacrament and may it give us joyful hope that as we wait in expectation that we and all of creation will be renewed this day. May this renewal bring us closer to our Lord and draw others to Him. May we hear also what Jesus himself heard, “You are my beloved, with you I am well pleased.”

**Reflection Questions/Action:**

In what way can I renew my Baptism each day?  
How may I comfort and/or give hope to another person this day?  
What are steps I can take to renew creation?

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