

Reading Sunday 9th January 2022

Luke 3:15-17,21-22

The Baptism of Jesus

Today, we hear about John the Baptist's ministry of a baptism of repentance. We hear that there were many people following him and asking to be baptised, and then of course hear about the baptism of Jesus.

In the first part of the reading, the people are asking John if he is the Messiah. John tells them that someone else is coming who is more powerful than John. and that he will baptise them with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He also tells them that the Messiah will come in judgement – he will divide them into the wheat and the chaff. The wheat (those that accept him) will be gathered into his granary (his kingdom), but the chaff will be burned.

Then we hear that after the people were baptised, Jesus is baptised, and then is praying. It sounds like Jesus just waited with others, and then asked to be baptised – what do you think ? Luke reports the baptism in a very matter-of-fact way -but what he then reports is certainly not in a matter-of-fact way.

Luke tells us that as Jesus was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. Then we hear the voice from heaven 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased'. I think this is God confirming that this is the person, who John has been talking about, and that he is the Son of God. I wonder how the crowd would have reacted, I wonder how we would have reacted if we had been there. I think it would be shock and amazement. What do you think ?

It is an amazing message, and display of God's existence – a message for us as well as those who were there.

Take care and stay safe. With love and blessings Jill Gollins xx