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At His Baptism, Jesus is Revealed as the Son of God

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READINGS
Psalm 72

Isiah 42.1-7

1 John 5.5-11

Mk.1.4-11

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, on this third Sunday after Christmas, we gather here to delve into the profound mystery and significance of Jesus' baptism. Today's theme is centred around the moment when Jesus was revealed as the Son of God. Our readings from Psalms, Isaiah, 1 John, and the Gospel of Mark provide a rich tapestry of insights into the divine revelation of Christ through His baptism.

The Royal Identity in Psalms (Psalm 72)

Let's begin with Psalm 72, a majestic psalm that reflects on the royal identity of the coming Messiah. In the verses, we find the anticipation of a king whose reign will bring justice, righteousness, and peace. Little did the psalmist know that the fulfilment of these promises would be inaugurated through the waters of baptism.

The Servant of the Lord in Isaiah (Isaiah 42.1-7)

Isaiah, often referred to as the 'Gospel of the Old Testament,' prophesies about the Servant of the Lord. In these verses, we see a description of a servant chosen and anointed by God. The imagery of God's Spirit descending like a dove is reminiscent of Jesus' baptism, marking Him as the ultimate Servant who fulfils God's redemptive plan.

Overcoming the World through Faith (1 John 5.5-11)

As we turn to the New Testament, the words of John remind us of the victory that comes through faith in Jesus Christ. The testimony of God concerning His Son is a powerful affirmation of the divine revelation experienced at the baptism of Jesus. Baptism becomes a gateway to eternal life, affirming the Sonship of Jesus and our participation in that divine inheritance.

The Baptism of Jesus (Mark 1.4-11)

The Gospel of Mark narrates the momentous event of Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. As Jesus emerges from the waters, the heavens are torn apart, and the Spirit descends upon Him like a dove. A voice from heaven declares, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you, I am well pleased." This proclamation is the heart of our theme today – Jesus is revealed as the Son of

God through His baptism.

In this act of humility, Jesus identifies with humanity, setting an example for us. He who knew no sin entered the waters reserved for repentance, not for His own sins, but to bear the sins of the world. The revelation of His divine identity is a pivotal moment that signals the inauguration of His public ministry.

The baptism of Jesus teaches us about the nature of the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It reveals the unity of purpose within the Godhead in the redemption of humanity. Jesus' baptism wasn't a mere ritual; it was the divine announcement of His mission to save us from sin and reconcile us to God. The voice from heaven echoes the Trinitarian formula, emphasizing the relationship between Father and Son, sealed by the Holy Spirit. When we think of the imagery of a dove descending upon Jesus, we visualize the Holy Spirit. The dove, throughout biblical history, symbolizes peace, purity, and the Spirit of God. Just as the dove rested on the Ark after the flood, it now rests on Jesus, signifying a new beginning, a new covenant.

Reflect on the significance of Jesus' willingness to identify with sinful humanity. He could have distanced Himself from our fallen nature, but instead, He embraced it. This act of humility speaks volumes about God's love for us. It reassures us that we serve a God who understands our struggles, having experienced the fullness of human existence.

Illustrate with the story of a caterpillar transforming into a butterfly. The baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of His transformative ministry, leading to His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection. In the same way, our baptism signifies our identification with Christ's death and resurrection, allowing us to experience a radical transformation.

In conclusion, the baptism of Jesus is a revelation of His divine identity, a proclamation of the Trinity, and a call for us to follow His example. As we reflect on the readings and the theological implications, let us be encouraged by the fact that our Savior, the Son of God, has walked the path of obedience, righteousness, and humility.

Prayer

Gracious and loving Father, we stand in awe of the revelation of your Son through His baptism. We thank you for the gift of Jesus, who humbled Himself to identify with us and lead us to redemption. As we navigate the waters of life, may the Holy Spirit guide us, just as it descended upon Jesus like a dove. Grant us the strength to follow the example of our Lord, embracing humility and serving others with love.Lord, we pray for those among us who may be facing challenges, doubts, or difficulties. May the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God bring comfort and assurance to their hearts. As we leave this place, let the truth of Christ's baptism resonate in our lives, transforming us into faithful disciples who reflect His love and grace.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we pray.

Amen.