

# Readings for Baptism

On the following pages you can find a rich source of scriptural readings for use in the Baptismal liturgy.

As a general guide you should decide on the readings in conjunction with your priest/deacon who will guide you as to which readings are most suitable when put together as a whole.

At a baptism you can choose readings like this:

1. A first reading from either the Old Testament or the New Testament.
2. A psalm
3. (An optional second reading from the New Testament)
4. A Gospel Reading from Mathew, Mark, Luke or John

It is the Church's practice for a Priest or Deacon to read (proclaim) the Gospel.

A single person can read all of the other readings, or you can ask several people to share the readings. This can help give variety to the readings by providing different voices which can help the assembly to hear the readings afresh.

## For the day of the Baptism:

*It is optional, but if you wish, you can select one Old Testament Reading, one Responsorial Psalm, one New Testament Reading and one Gospel Reading. Also select a person to do the readings.*

*Are there any special saints' who are significant to you which should be added to the Litany of the Saints?*

*What qualities do you and your spouse wish to commit yourself to in rearing your child?*

*Select readings and readers*

Choose one for each	Reading #	Who will read?
Old Testament Reading		
Responsorial Psalm:		
New Testament Reading		
Prayers of the Faithful		
The Gospel Reading		<b>PRIEST or DEACON</b>

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

### 757-1 Exodus 17:3-7

#### A reading from the book of Exodus

*Give to us water, that we may drink.*

In their thirst for water the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? A little more and they will stone me!" The Lord answered Moses, "Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand as you go, the staff with which you struck the river. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink."

This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel. The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord in our midst or not?"

*The Word of the Lord.*

### 757-2 Ezekiel 36: 24-28

#### A reading from the book of the prophet

Ezekiel

*I will pour out on you clean water and you will be cleansed from all your sins.*

Thus says the Lord God: I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

*The Word of the Lord.*

### 757-3 Ezekiel 47: 1-9, 12

#### A reading from the book of the prophet

Ezekiel

*I see the water flowing from the temple and all who were touched by it were saved.*

Then the angel brought me back to the entrance of the temple of the Lord, and I saw water flowing out from beneath the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the facade of the temple was toward the east; the water flowed down from the southern side of the temple, south of the altar. He led me outside by the north gate, and around to the outer gate facing the east, where I saw water trickling from the southern side. Then when he had walked off to the east with a measuring cord in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and had me wade through the water, which was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand and once more had me wade through the water, which was now knee-deep. Again he measured off a thousand and had me wade; the water was up to my waist. Once more he measured off a thousand, but there was now a river through which I could not wade; for the water had risen so high it had become a river that could not be crossed except by swimming. He asked me, "Have you seen this, son of man?" Then he brought me to the bank of the river, where he had me sit. Along the bank of the river I saw very many trees on both sides. He said to me, "This water flows into the eastern district down upon the Arabah, and empties into the sea, the salt waters, which it makes fresh. Wherever the river flows, every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live, and there shall be abundant fish, for wherever this water comes the sea shall be made fresh. Along both banks of the river, fruit trees of every kind shall grow; their leaves shall not fade, nor their fruit fail. Every month they shall bear fresh fruit, for they shall be watered by the flow from the sanctuary. Their fruit shall serve for food, and their leaves for medicine."

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

### 759-1 Psalm 23

Reader: The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.

ALL: *The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
Beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul. .

ALL: *The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.*

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
With your rod and your staff  
that give me courage.

ALL: *The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.*

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

ALL: *The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.*

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
for years to come.

ALL: *The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.*

### 759-2 Psalm 27

Reader: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

ALL: *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom should I fear?  
The Lord is my life's refuge;  
of whom should I be afraid?

ALL: *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

One thing I ask of the Lord;  
this I seek:

To dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord  
and contemplate his temple.

ALL: *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

Your presence, O Lord, I seek.  
Hide not your face from me;  
do not in anger repel your servant.  
You are my helper: cast me not off.

ALL: *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*  
I believe that I shall see  
the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living.  
Wait for the Lord with courage;  
be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord.  
ALL: *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

### 759-3 Psalm 34

Reader: Come to him and receive his light!

ALL: *Come to him and receive his light!*

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the Lord;  
the lowly will hear me and be glad.

ALL: *Come to him and receive his light!*

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,  
and your faces may not blush with shame.  
When the afflicted man called out,  
the Lord heard,  
and from all his distress he saved him.

ALL: *Come to him and receive his light!*

The angel of the Lord encamps around those  
who fear him, and delivers them.  
Taste and see how good the Lord is;  
happy the one who takes refuge in him.

ALL: *Come to him and receive his light!*

Keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from speaking guile;  
Turn from evil, and do good;  
seek peace, and follow after it.  
ALL: *Come to him and receive his light!*

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

### **758-1 Rom 6, 3-5**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the  
Romans

*When we were baptized we joined Jesus in death so that we  
might walk in the newness of his life.*

Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. If we have been united with him through likeness to his death, so shall we be through a like resurrection.

*The Word of the Lord.*

### **758-2 Romans 8, 28-32**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the  
Romans

*We have become more like God's own Son.*

We know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who have been called according to his decree. Those whom he foreknew he predestined to share the image of his Son, that the Son might be the first-born of many brothers. Those he predestined he likewise called; those he called he also justified; and those he justified he in turn glorified. What shall we say after that? If God is for us, who can be against us? Is it possible that he who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for the sake of us all will not grant us all things besides?

*The Word of the Lord.*

### **758-3 1 Corinthians 12:12-13**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the  
Corinthians

*In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.*

The body is one and has many members, but all the members, many though they are, are one body; and so it is with Christ. It was in one Spirit that all of us, whether Jew or Greek, slave or free, were baptized into one body. All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit.

*The Word of the Lord.*

### **758-4 Galatians 3: 26-28**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the  
Galatians

*All baptized in Christ have put on Christ.*

Each one of you is a son of God because of your faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with him. There does not exist among you Jew or Greek, slave or freeman, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus.

*The Word of the Lord.*

### **758-5 Ephesians 4: 1-6**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the  
Ephesians

*One Lord, one faith, one baptism.*

I plead with you as a prisoner for the Lord, to live a life worthy of the calling you have received, with perfect humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another lovingly. Make every effort to preserve the unity which has the Spirit as its origin and peace as its binding force. There is but one body and one Spirit, just as there is but one hope given all of you by your call. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all, and works through all, and is in all.

*The Word of the Lord.*

### **758-6 1 Peter 2: 4-5. 9-10**

A reading from the first letter of Peter

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.*

Come to Christ, a living stone, rejected by men but approved, nonetheless, and precious in God's eyes. You too are living stones, built as an edifice of spirit, into a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. You, however, are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people he claims for his own to proclaim the glorious works" of the One who called you from darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were "no people," but now you are God's people; once there was "no mercy for you," but now you have found mercy.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL

### 761-1 Matthew 22, 35-40

A reading from the holy gospel according to  
Matthew

*This is the first and most important commandment.*

One of the Pharisees, a lawyer, in an attempt to trip Jesus up, asked him, "Teacher, which commandment of the law is the greatest?" Jesus said to him: " 'You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, your whole soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments the whole law is based, and the prophets as well."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

### 761-2 Matthew 28:18-20

A reading from the holy gospel according to  
Matthew

*Go and teach all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

Jesus came forward and addressed the eleven disciples in these words: "Full authority has been given to me both in heaven and on earth; go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations. Baptize them in the name 'of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.' Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world!"

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

### 761-3 Mark 1: 9-11

A reading from the holy gospel according to  
Mark

*Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan.*

Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. Immediately on coming up out of the water he saw the sky rent in two and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Then a voice came from the heavens: "You are my beloved Son. On you my favor rests."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

### 761-4 Mark 10:13-16

A reading from the holy gospel according to  
Mark

*Let the children come to me.*

People were bringing their little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples were scolding them for this. Jesus became indignant when he noticed it and said to them: "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them. It is to just such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I assure you that whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a little child shall not enter into it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

### 761-5 Mark 12: 23-34

A reading from the holy gospel according to  
Mark

*Hear Israel, love the Lord God with your whole heart.*

One of the scribes decided to ask Jesus, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied: "This is the first: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! Therefore you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

This is the second, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." The scribe said to him: "Excellent, Teacher! You are right in saying, 'He is the One, there is no other than he.' Yes, 'to love him with all our heart, with all our thoughts and with all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves' is worth more than any burnt offering or sacrifice." Jesus approved the insight of this answer and told him, "You are not far from the reign of God." And no one had the courage to ask him any more questions.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

### 761-6 John 3: 1-6

A reading from the holy gospel according to  
John

*Unless a man is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

A certain Pharisee named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin, came to Jesus at night. "Rabbi," he said, "we know you are a teacher come from God, for no man can perform signs and wonders such as you perform unless God is with him." Jesus gave him this answer: "I solemnly assure you, no one can see the rule of God unless he is begotten from above."

"How can a man be born again once he is old?" retorted Nicodemus. "Can he return to his mother's womb and be born over again?"

Jesus replied: "I solemnly assure you, no one can enter into God's kingdom without being begotten of water and Spirit. Flesh begets flesh, Spirit begets spirit."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

### **761-7 John 4, 5-14**

#### **A reading from the holy gospel according to John**

The water I give will become a fountain of living water springing up into life eternal.

The journey of Jesus brought him to a Samaritan town named Shechem near the plot of land which Jacob had given to his son Joseph. This was the site of Jacob's well. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down at the well.

The hour was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone off to the town to buy provisions.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew. How can you ask me, a Samaritan and a woman, for a drink?" (Recall that Jews have nothing to do with Samaritans.) Jesus replied: "If only you recognized God's gift, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him instead, and he would have given you living water."

"Sir," she challenged him, "you don't have a bucket and this well is deep. Where do you expect to get this flowing water? Surely you don't pretend to be greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it with his sons and his flocks?" Jesus replied: "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water I give him will never be thirsty; no, the water I give shall become a fountain within him, leaping up to provide eternal life."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

### **761-8 John 6:44-47**

#### **A reading from the holy gospel according to John**

*He who believes has eternal life.*

Jesus said to the crowd: "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the prophets: 'They shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father— only the one who is from God has seen the Father. Let me firmly assure you, he who believes has eternal life."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

### **761-9 John 7:37-39**

#### **A reading from the holy gospel according to John**

*Streams of living water shall flow from his heart.*

Jesus stood up and cried out: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me; let him drink who believes in me. Scripture has it: 'From within him rivers of living water shall flow.'" (Here he was referring to the Spirit, whom those that came to believe in him were to receive.)

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

### **761-10 John 9:1-7**

#### **A reading from the holy gospel according to John**

*He leaves, and washes, and returns able to see.*

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, was it his sin or his parents' that caused him to be born blind?" "Neither," answered Jesus: "It was no sin, either of this man or of his parents. Rather, it was to let God's works show forth in him. We must do the deeds of him who sent me while it is day. Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva, and smeared the man's eyes with the mud. Then he told him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." (This name means "One who has been sent.") So the man went off and washed, and came back able to see.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

### **761-11 John 15, 1-11**

#### **A reading from the holy gospel according to John**

*Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine and my Father is the vinegrower. He prunes away every barren branch, but the fruitful ones he trims clean to increase their yield. You are clean already, thanks to

the word I have spoken to you. Live on in me, as I do in you. No more than a branch can bear fruit of itself apart from the vine, can you bear fruit apart from me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who lives in me and I in him, will produce abundantly, for apart from me you can do nothing. A man who does not live in me is like a withered, rejected branch, picked up to be thrown in the fire and burnt. If you live in me, and my words stay part of you, you may ask what you will—it will be done for you. My Father has been glorified in your bearing much fruit and becoming my disciples.

“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Live on in my love. You will live in my love if you keep my commandments, even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and live in his love. All this I tell you that my joy may be yours and your joy may be complete.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

### **761-12 John 19, 31-35**

A reading from the holy gospel according to  
John

*He opened his side and out came blood and water.*

Since it was the Preparation Day, the Jews did not want to have the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, for that sabbath was a solemn feast day. They asked Pilate that the legs be broken and the bodies be taken away. Accordingly, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the men crucified with Jesus, first of the one, then of the other. When they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. One of the soldiers thrust a lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. (This testimony has been given by an eyewitness and his testimony is true. He tells what he knows is true, so that you may believe.)

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Celebrant:** My dear brothers and sisters, let us ask our Lord Jesus Christ to look lovingly on this child who is to be baptized, on his (or) her parents and godparents, and on all the baptized.

**Reader:** By the mystery of your death and resurrection, bathe this child in light, give him (her) the new life of baptism and welcome him (her), into your holy Church.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Through baptism and confirmation, make him (her) your faithful follower and a witness to your gospel.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Lead him (her) by a holy life to the joys of God's kingdom.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer .**

**Reader:** Make the lives of his (her) parents and godparents examples of faith to inspire this child,

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Keep his (her) family always in your love, and renew the grace of our baptism in each one of us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Celebrant invokes the saints:**

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Saint John the Baptist,  
Saint Joseph,  
Saint Peter and Saint Paul,  
Saint Dominic and Saint Jude,  
Please name your own saints  
And all holy men and women,

**pray for us.**  
**pray for us.**  
**pray for us.**  
**pray for us.**  
**pray for us.**  
**pray for us.**  
**pray for us.**