



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
EPIPHANY 1 —YEAR A**

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father
and of the Son +
and of the Holy Spirit.

G: Amen

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 45

**A: Great are the works of the Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Great are the works of the Lord.**

L: My heart is stirred by a noble theme

G: as I recite my verses for the King.

L: You are the most excellent of men,

**G: and your lips have been anointed with
grace.**

L: Gird your sword upon your side, O Mighty One;

G: clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.

L: In your majesty ride forth victoriously;

**G: let your right hand display awesome
deeds.**

L: Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;

**G: a scepter of justice will be the scepter of
your kingdom.**

L: You love righteousness and hate wickedness;

**G: therefore God has anointed you with the
oil of joy.**

L: I will perpetuate your memory through all
generations;

**G: therefore the nations will praise you for
ever and ever.**

**A: Great are the works of the Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Great are the works of the Lord.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READING & MEDITATION *see next page*

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**A: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

VERSE OF THE DAY

**A: You are my Son, whom I love; with you I
am well pleased. (Mark 1:11b)**

BENEDICTION

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

A: Amen

READING AND MEDITATION:

First Sunday after the Epiphany – The Baptism of Our Lord: Jesus appears as the Christ, the Anointed One. The titles “Christ” and “Messiah” both mean “The Anointed One,” and they describe how God prepared Jesus for his mission. Since the days of Othniel (Judges 3:10), the Spirit of the Lord empowered God’s heroes to do his saving work. At his baptism, God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power and declared this son of Mary to be the Son of God—the one anointed to be the Savior of mankind.

As you study this week, seek to find the connecting theme in all the lessons by using Luther’s Four Big Barber Questions to ponder and discuss each individual reading:

1. *What is God saying to me in this lesson?*
2. *For what does this lesson lead me to give thanks?*
3. *What sins does this lesson lead me to confess?*
4. *For what does this lesson lead me to pray?*

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:13-17

What kind of God gets baptized? The Baptist’s question confronts every Christian reading this account, and we join in John’s incredulity (cf. ἔχω...σὺ) at Jesus’ intended condescension. Though John objected, Jesus encouraged him to allow this concession in order to fulfill their purpose there together (πρέπον ἐστὶν ἡμῖν). Their joint purpose was to fulfill all righteousness. Jesus would do that by being the Messiah and standing in the place of sinful man—first at the font and ultimately at the cross. John would play his part by fulfilling his role as forerunner: baptizing with water that the Messiah might be revealed (John 1:31). When John consented and baptized Jesus, the Spirit fulfilled the promises of Isaiah (First Lesson), and Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power (Second Lesson). In this inauguration into his office as the Christ, God prepared the Messiah for his mission with an unlimited outpouring of the Spirit (John 3:34). In the very next verse, empowered and led by the Spirit, the hero of God immediately goes out to war against Satan on behalf of mankind (Matthew 4:1ff), fulfilling all righteousness and bringing us peace.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 42:1-7

This Servant Song foretells the Messiah’s work: he will be God’s own servant sent to accomplish God’s mission. God will choose him, uphold him and delight in him. God will also put his Spirit on him that he might bring justice to the nations. His ministry is characterized by gentleness toward the weak, but also by an inexorable driving toward his goal. He will not falter in the work for which he was anointed until he brings forth the right verdict (מִשְׁפָּט עַד-יְשׁוּעָה): the justice that comes from God and declares his people righteous in his sight because of Messiah’s work. He will be the Mediator of the new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34) based on his person that will bring the people and the Gentiles out of the darkness of sin’s prison. Matthew’s account of Jesus’ baptism shows how these prophecies were perfectly fulfilled in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: ACTS 10:34-38

The Gentile household of Cornelius had heard the message about the Savior, but then Peter came as an eyewitness of prophecy’s fulfillment. Jesus was the Christ because at his baptism God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power. Immediately, the empowerment of the Spirit made itself evident in the works of Jesus as he did the Messiah’s work of healing those under the power of the devil. This anointing as Savior resulted in Peter’s amazing statement in verse 36, “the message proclaiming the good news (τὸν λόγον εὐαγγελιζόμενος) of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.” The message God sent Israel consisted in that one word: peace. That message was on the lips of the angels at Christmas and on the lips of Christ at his resurrection. Jesus restored peace between man and God because that’s exactly what he had been anointed to do.

My takeaways:

What major theme(s) connect(s) all the lessons?