

The Baptism of the Lord – January 10, 2010

Sermon Questions

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-22

1. Christine spoke quite a lot about symbols. She mentioned wedding rings, and also the vestments that clergy wear. Can you think of other symbols that have deep meanings which are predominant in our lives?
2. The symbols of fire, water and the dove were quite strong in the readings and the sermon. Genesis 6:6 was quoted (Noah); the Isaiah passage (43:2) and the Luke reading (3:16-17; 21-22). From these readings, identify the way in which these symbols are being used as expressions of judgement and salvation?
3. Christine said that the Jews knew they needed salvation on two counts: a) because the Scriptures had promised it to them; b) because of the Roman oppression. She said that our culture isn't perhaps as aware of our need of salvation. Identify ways in which ignorance of the need of salvation may be evident in our culture.
4. Herod Antipas (tetrarch of the Judean region), wanted to be the 'king of the Jews' and so ruled with a tyrannical hand and was rebuilding the Jewish temple in order to claim the royal title. In this, he believed he would in effect, be the saviour to the people. How do we today try to earn or effect our own salvation?
5. Isaiah 42:1 and Luke 3:22 have similar statements made by God the Father about Jesus Christ. From the sermon, and these readings, identify how Jesus Christ is the Judge and Saviour of the cosmos. (words to give a hint: Trinity, Sovereignty, Revelation, promise).