

Reading 1: Is 49:3, 5-6
Reading 2: 1 Cor 1:1-3

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 40:2, 4,7-8, 8-9, 10
Gospel : John 1:29-34

Gospel Reading: *John 1:29-34*

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

Meditation:

John calls Jesus the *Lamb of God* and thus signifies Jesus' mission as the One who redeems us from our sins. The blood of the *Passover Lamb* delivered the Israelites in Egypt from slavery and death. The Lord Jesus freely offered up his life for us on the cross as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. The blood which he poured out for us on the cross cleanses, heals, and frees us from our slavery to sin, and from the "wages of sin which is death" and the "destruction of both body and soul in hell".

John points to Jesus' saving mission - to offer up his life as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. It is significant that John was the son of Zechariah, a priest of Israel who participated in the daily sacrifice of a lamb in the temple for the sins of the people. John recognized that Jesus was the perfect unblemished lamb offered by the Father in heaven as the one and only sacrifice that could cancel the debt of sin, and free us from death and the destruction of body and soul in hell. The Holy Spirit reveals who Jesus truly is - the Son of God and Saviour of the world.

When John says he did not know Jesus he was referring to the hidden reality of Jesus' divinity. But the Holy Spirit in that hour revealed to John Jesus' true nature, such that John bore witness that this is the Son of God. How can we be certain that Jesus is truly the Christ, the Son of the living God? The Holy Spirit makes the Lord Jesus Christ known to us through the gift of faith. God gives us his Spirit as our helper and guide who opens our hearts and minds to receive and comprehend the great mystery and plan of God - to unite all things in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ .

Do you want to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ? Ask the Lord to pour his Holy Spirit upon you to deepen your faith, hope, and love for God and for the plan he has for your life. "Lord Jesus Christ, fill me with the power of your Holy Spirit and let me grow in the knowledge of your great love and truth. Let your Spirit be aflame in my heart that I may know and love you more fervently and strive to do your will in all things."

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

1. The Holy Spirit revealed to John the Baptist the divinity of Jesus, which John humbly said, "He comes after me but ranks ahead of me" and that "He must increase, but I must decrease." Are there areas in your life that you must decrease so that Jesus can be fuller in your life?
2. John exclaimed that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Whoever is in Christ is a new creation, the old things has passed away. In what ways have you changed ever since you started following Jesus?
3. John the Baptist testified that Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Jesus after his resurrection also sent us his Holy Spirit to teach, to guide, to enlighten us. How have you cooperated with the Holy Spirit?

"Lord Jesus, you alone are my treasure and the joy of my heart. May there be nothing in this world that holds me back from giving you my all - you are my all, my life and joy now and forever."

Source: www.dailyscripture.net, author [Don Schwager](#)

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