


	Jesus is baptized	
Presence of God	Considering how God looks at me.	
History Mark 1, 9-11	<p>⁹It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John.</p> <p>¹⁰And at once, as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him.</p> <p>¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favor rests on you.'</p>	
Petition	<i>Lord, may I know you more clearly, love you more deeply and follow you more nearly</i>	
Contemplation	<p>V 9 Jesus bids his Mother farewell Remember that when Jesus was about thirty years old, he felt that his Father wanted him to leave home to begin his ministry: preach the good news and die for us. Let's imagine Jesus walking away from home... feeling homesick but also eager to fulfill the mission his Father had entrusted to him.</p> <p>v 9 Jesus purifies us Once Jesus started talking to the people about John and he said: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swaying in the breeze?" (Lk 7,25) A weathercock that veers with the wind? NO!, John was a man of strong convictions. He was not interested in living comfortably but in serving God. He lived in the desert and his mission was to baptize those who wanted to get purified before the arrival of the Messiah. As he was a man of God, people with problems turned to him, people whose lives were "stained" with sins, fights, thefts, corruption. They wanted to get purified and to ask for God's forgiveness. And John cleansed them by immersing them in the waters of the Jordan river. One day John saw Jesus queuing up in the line of sinners. Did he have any sins? What sins did he want to purify? Isaiah had prophesized that the Messiah would bear and carry upon himself our sins to purify them, He who was pure and blameless.(cf. Isaiah 53, 3 – 4). Imagine Jesus bearing upon him the sins of mankind, and feel him immersed (signal of his death for us). Jesus accepts his passion and death out of obedience. Imagine how the water purifies the evil of the world. How did Jesus feel under the water that ran and cleaned our stains that he bore upon his Body?</p> <p>v 10 Jesus is anointed by the Holy Spirit When he is immersed, everything is dark (like in a tomb). When he comes up out of the water, he opens his eyes and the Holy Spirit (that descended in a bodily form like a dove) falls upon Him. The Holy Spirit is light, joy, peace, love. The Holy Spirit is the driving force of the creation. When God created the man, He formed him of dust, and when He breathed into his nostrils his Spirit –the breath of life–, the man became a living being(cf. Gn 2,7). The Spirit fell on prophets and gave them the power to speak on behalf of God (Ez 11,5; Micah 3,8); the Spirit fell on those who would become kings, like David, and gave them wisdom and courage to rule and defend the people of God (1 Samuel 16,13). Now this Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, this spirit of LOVE, falls upon Jesus, the Son become man, and gives Him the courage and strength to speak to the world about the Father and to die for the purification of mankind. Imagine Jesus coming up out of the water, full of the Holy Spirit who gave him the strength to fulfill his mission: preach, do miracles and die on the cross.</p>	<p>All the religions have purification rituals, because human beings do not like to feel stained, dirty. We all want to be clean before our parents, brothers, friends, the people in general and God.</p> <p>Isaiah 53, 3-4. He was despised, the lowest of men, a man of sorrows, familiar with suffering, one from whom, as it were, we averted our gaze, despised, for whom we had no regard. Yet ours were the sufferings he was bearing, ours the sorrows he was carrying.</p> <p>Jesus' baptism prefigures his death on the cross: when dead, he was buried (<i>baptizein</i> means immerse, bury). When we are baptized, we are granted the grace of Jesus' death and resurrection. He was buried for three days and therefore, the priest sprinkles water on our heads three times.</p> <p>Jesus is the "Messiah", in Greek the "<i>Christos</i>", and in Spanish "<i>ungido</i>" (the Anointed One). The "anointed one" means chosen by God and endowed with the life-giving Spirit, that supports, strengthens, enlightens, soothes us; that makes us happy and courageous. This Spirit, that is the love bond between Jesus and his Father, gives Jesus the strength to comply with the will of the Father every day of his life. Jesus' words and deeds are inspired by this Spirit of love; and so he fulfills the mission entrusted by his Father, by loving him deeply and dearly.</p>

v 11 The Father loves his Son

When the Father sees his Son, immersed, humbly obedient to the extreme of dying on the cross to fulfill his mission and save us, he feels so moved and proud that he shouts so that everybody can hear "This is my Son, the Beloved; my favor rests on Him".

Imagine the Father, proud of his Son because he is humble and willing to fulfill his mission: to save the lost and take them back Home! Listen to God's words and feel his happiness when he tells everybody that Jesus is his beloved Son.

Colloquy

Let's sit on the carpet, on the promised land, near Jesus, to hear him in the silence of our hearts.

Imagine that you are standing next to Jesus when he is immersed in the water and thank him for risking his neck for you, to purify you and the rest of the world.

