

Scripture Prayer For The Week

"Once...
when Jesus...
was praying alone..." (Luke 9:18)



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

Ordinary Time - Yr A Week 2

We Gather: In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. With the image of Baptism strong in this gospel, have a bowl of water on the prayer space stand. Green is the Ordinary Time colour. Choose a different green tone for this early period of Ordinary time (before Lent). Encourage a pattern with the staff of touching the water when they enter or leave the community room.

Leader: Blessed be you, O God, creator of the universe.
All: Bathe us and enliven us in the water of life.

We Listen: The Gospel. John 1:29-34

Read the gospel passage reflectively. After a time of silent reflection, the line from scripture below could be repeated and the short commentary read.

"He is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit."

Commentary:

The origin of the word baptise is 'to immerse'. In recent years, baptism fonts have been designed as in the early church so that infants and adults being baptised could be fully immersed. Being baptised with the Spirit tells us that we are fully immersed, even as some put it, 'drowned', into the being of God's Spirit. And that immersion is for life-the water of baptism never dries off. Our atomic structure is drenched with a Love- God.

We Respond: *"He baptises with the Holy Spirit."*

In silence, reflect on the questions below? You may wish to have a time of brief sharing.

- Have you ever thought before of this total immersion in God's Spirit in your understanding of baptism?
- How thankful are we to our parents or RCIA sponsors who brought us to the font of this transformation and gifted us with the experience of the Spirit of God?
- What changes now in my outlook on life, my joy, my sense of involvement with God, my opportunity and responsibility to declare that all people are chosen?

Song: We Will Draw Water (James Maher-AOVNG) or A Baptismal Invocation (Coyle-AOV2)

We Go Forth:

God, you have washed us in the life of your Spirit and changed us to be your flesh in the world. How gracious a gift-how awe-inspiring! Hold us together so we can live out the promise you made to us and we made to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.