

Bible and Beer

January 4, 2022

For Baptism of the Lord C (January 9, 2022)

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

40 Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare
the way of the Lord, make straight in the
desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him; his reward is with
him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

¹¹ Beloved: For the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to
renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in
the present age to live lives that are self-
controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait
for the blessed hope and the manifestation of

the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus
Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he
might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for
himself a people of his own who are zealous for
good deeds. ⁴ But when the goodness and
loving-kindness of God our Saviour
appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of any
works of righteousness that we had done, but
according to his mercy, through the water of
rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶ This
Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus
Christ our Saviour, ⁷ so that, having been
justified by his grace, we might become heirs
according to the hope of eternal life.

Luke 3:15-16, (17-20) 21-22

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation,
and all were questioning in their hearts
concerning John, whether he might be the
Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying,
'I baptize you with water; but one who is more
powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to
untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize
you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹⁷ His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his
threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary;
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' ¹⁸ So,
with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good
news to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the ruler, who had been
rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife,
and because of all the evil things that Herod had
done, ²⁰ added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and
when Jesus also had been baptized and was
praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy
Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a
dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are
my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well
pleased.'

Reflection Questions for Small Group

The First Reading from Isaiah gives us a beautiful sense of the good news that should come to pass with the coming of the Messiah. Which phrase or image stands out in Isaiah's prophesy as most important for you moving into this new year? Why?

What is your mission, vocation, calling? (It might be rooting in your occupation)... How does "your baptism" breathe new life in your mission, vocation or calling?

WORD PAIRS

Of the two pairs, which word do you resonate with most in your life right now, especially in light of the conversation tonight. (No need to discuss or justify your selection)

Fearful – Hopeful
Disillusioned – Energized
Empowered – Hesitant
Bold – Shy
Centered – Scattered

Share one final word that expresses your outlook for tomorrow.