



2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 - Cycle A

## LORD LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



**YOU, THE REFLECTION OF HIS LIGHT**

### SETTING

I keep silence and let your Word Lord descend on me like that soft light that floods everything.

Today John the Baptist leaves us his personal testimony about the One whom he had baptized. In this way, he invites us to overcome the superficiality in which the inertia of our routine lives often surrounds us and submerges us. We deepen into a more conscious and lively spirituality, based on the solid Christological identity of Jesus, whom we have confessed as such in our baptismal promises.

What existed from the beginning, what we have seen and heard, what we have contemplated and felt with our hands, the eternal life that was with the Father, is what we announce and testify to you.

The Light makes us to be light in our lives. We are the light.

## **SONG. JESUS CAME TO JOHN THE BAPTIST -Heather Buell**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9bdRzrA9fo>

### **GOSPEL –John1, 29-34**

"The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared: "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, after me comes a man, who ranks ahead of me because he was before me, for he existed before me. I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, so that so that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, saying: "I have seen the Spirit coming down like a dove from heaven and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me: "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the son of God."

#### **We deepen the text**

The last formula is very solemn: "Yes, and I have seen him and I bear witness that this is the Chosen One of God". In the time of John the Baptist, this way of saying that Jesus was the Messiah they were waiting for, the one who had to bring perfect joy on earth. John the Baptist could not yet perceive the whole mystery of Jesus (in fact, what follows proves that he had many questions), but the fact of applying the title of Messiah to his cousin, the son of Mary, was already considerable!

The truth is that Jesus is designated by John the Baptist as the Messiah who had been expected for centuries. Obviously, we can ask what it is that allows John the Baptist to affirm without hesitation and with complete certainty that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel. It is simply what he has seen with his own eyes: the Holy Spirit hovering over him. And here too the formula is very solemn: "I have seen the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove and hover over him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize in water told me: The man on whom you will see the Spirit descend and remain, that is the one who will baptize in the Holy Spirit." The word "maintain" is important here, indeed: each king on the day of

his consecration, received the anointing of oil, a sign of the Spirit that would accompany him throughout his mission. The Messiah, everyone knew, would be inhabited, permanently guided by the Spirit of God, also He would be the one who should bring the Holy Spirit to all humanity.

As for the lamb, this mention first makes us think of the paschal lamb: the Easter rite each year reminded the people that God had freed them. The Lamb also made one think of the Servant of God of whom the second book of Isaiah speaks (53): The Servant of God was compared to an innocent lamb that bore the sins of the multitude.

When John the Baptist says that Jesus is the Lamb of God, he presents him as a liberator of humanity (he is the paschal lamb). It is true that sin has not disappeared, so how and why can we say that Jesus is truly the liberating messiah of humanity? The truth is that sin is no longer a fatality: Jesus Christ gives us the possibility of freeing ourselves from the gears of sin. If we remain grafted onto Him, in all the circumstances of our lives, if we let ourselves be permanently guided by the Holy Spirit in whom we were immersed on the day of our Baptism, we will be able to discover in ourselves this new freedom.

**Like Jesus, we can live love, gratuitousness and forgiveness.**

### **Imaginative Contemplation**

- Read the text slowly, contemplate the situation, internalize the words that seem most significant to you, remember them.
- Put yourself in the place of John the Baptist and say the words that he says about Jesus. Observe what you feel. Remember those moments when you have contemplated and recognized Jesus.
- Make a gesture of thanks praise.

**AMBIENTAL MUSIC. JEFF WAHL - "PRAIRIE SKY"**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKoSEeF\\_BG4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKoSEeF_BG4)

## WHAT WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD

What we have seen  
And touched with our hands,  
The eternal life that was with  
the Father,  
Is what we announce  
And we testify  
Born to illuminate  
We are part of that divine  
history,  
That paints new scenarios.  
Born to illuminate  
We are heart that feels  
And let grace emerge  
What do you have inside?  
Born to illuminate  
We are thought  
That remembers updates and  
futures. Born to illuminate  
We are word that  
communicates  
The good news.  
Born to illuminate  
We are a look that reflects  
The light it has received.  
Born to illuminate

We are echo that reproduces  
The good vibes  
Born to illuminate  
We are hands that caress  
Others hands, others bodies.  
Born to illuminate  
We are steps that travel  
Serene Paths of life.  
Born to illuminate  
We are a door that opens  
To everyone who wants to  
enter. Born to illuminate  
We are fraternal table,  
Arranged with bread and  
wine.  
Born to illuminate  
We want to be a little you.  
Born to illuminate  
We are solid witnesses,  
That inspires authentic  
choices.  
Born to illuminate  
In a fraternal way,  
We are with you  
Novelty, Kingdom.

### SONG.

#### WASH ME LORD - HYMNTHUSIAST

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hR7Ju9998uc>



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