

## The First Mystery of Light: The Baptism of Jesus

*It is suggested that there be a pose of 10 second or so after each of the readings or meditations before saying the Hail Mary. The ... also suggest places where short pauses might be appropriate.*

### ✦ Our Father...

The baptism of Jesus according to Mark.

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Mk 1:9-11



### ✦ Hail Mary...

...in those days... in the Jordan...

Jesus was baptized in a very real place in a very real time. For those who were on the shore of the Jordan River that day, the place may have been very familiar to them, a very ordinary place and time, as ordinary as this place here is for us today.

### ✦ Hail Mary...

...he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens...

In that very ordinary place, in that very ordinary time, something unexpected happened... the heavens were torn open... the Spirit came down... a voice was heard...

### ✦ Hail Mary...

"...he saw the heavens being torn open... And a voice came from the heavens..."

If we are gathered here today (tonight) in this very ordinary time and place, it is because, somewhere deep within us, we hope, without knowing quite how, that the heavens will be torn open a bit for us as well... that a voice will make itself heard in our very ordinary

lives... Being here today is a way of saying to God that we hope he will speak to our hearts.

✦ **Hail Mary...**

"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

My Son... my beloved... Jesus surely knew that his Father loved him, and yet he needed to hear it because the road ahead would not be easy... My son, my daughter... my beloved... We also know that the Father loves us, but we need to hear today his voice say to us, "you are my beloved."

✦ **Hail Mary...**

The baptism of Jesus according to Luke.

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Lk 3: 21-22

✦ **Hail Mary...**

...Jesus ...had been praying...

We, like Jesus, feel the need to take time for prayer. Even if the sky were torn open, even if the Spirit came, even if the Father spoke... all would be in vain if no one were there to wait in hope, to welcome in faith, and to listen with love.

✦ **Hail Mary...**

...heaven was opened... And a voice came from heaven...

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, (then) I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me." - Revelations 3; 20

✦ **Hail Mary...**

"...with you I am well pleased. "

Jesus always did what was pleasing to his Father. All of his life was rooted in his love for

the Father, a love that wished nothing else but to do the will of the one he loved, a love that, at the end of his journey, would be stronger than death.

✦ **Hail Mary...**

Because the Father also tells us "You are my daughter, you are my son, my beloved, " we can also live grounded in that love, a love stronger than all the powers of death we encounter on our own journey.

✦ **Hail Mary...**

✦ **Glory be to the Father...**

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