

## FIRST READING

### **A Reading from the Book of Exodus** 1:8-11, 22; 2:1-10

A new ruler came to power in Egypt. “Look,” the new Pharaoh said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.”

So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh.

...

Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that it was a fine baby, of beauty and health, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket, an ark, for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister found a vantage point a little distance away to find out what would happen to him.

Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said.

## Readings for the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, January 7 or 8, 2018

Then the baby's sister emerged and asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

"Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

The Word of an Ancient Israelite Storyteller.

***Thanks be to God.***

Readings for the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, January 7 or 8, 2018

**PSALM**

*Isaiah 12:2-6*

The Psalm Response is: You are in our midst.

***R: You are in our midst.***

Look, this is the God who sets us free.

I will have faith and not be afraid.

For God is my strength and my song,

and has always been my deliverer.

***R: You are in our midst.***

You will joyously draw water

from the springs of life.

And on that day you will say:

“Give thanks to God!

Call out the Holy Name!

Make known God’s good works among all people;

spread the good news of God in our midst.”

***R: You are in our midst.***

Sing songs to God, who has done excellent things;

Let them be known throughout the earth.

Cry aloud and shout for joy,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

***R: You are in our midst.***

## SECOND READING

### **A Reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians 3:27-28 (or 27- 29)**

All of you who were baptized into the Christ have clothed yourselves with the Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

#### *verse 29*

If you belong to the Christ, then you are Abraham and Sarah's offspring, and heirs according to the promise.

The Word of the Apostle Paul.

***Thanks be to God.***

## GOSPEL

### **A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Mark 1:7-11**

***Glory to You, O God.***

In the course of John's preaching, he proclaimed, "After me is coming one who is more powerful than I; and I am not fit to kneel down and untie the strap of his sandal. I have baptized you with water, but the one to come will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as he was coming up out of the water, the heavens tore apart and the Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove. A voice came from heaven, "You are my Own, the Beloved, in you I take delight."

The Gospel of Our God.

***Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.***