

## **Sunday Readings Reflections of 1/10/2016**

### **Reading 1 Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7**

Today's reading might be called Jesus' theme song, even though it was written long before his birth. Known as one of the four "suffering Servant Songs" in the Old Testament, this reading describes someone who sounds exactly like Jesus. And Jesus himself quotes some of these lines from the prophet, who was probably describing Israel itself. By accepting his own suffering and remaining faithful to God, Israel could be "a light for the nations." For us, the reading is an inspiring portrait of Jesus, the Suffering Servant, who humbly brings justice, freedom, and peace to God's people.

### **Reading 2 Acts 10:34-38**

Today the Roman centurion Cornelius and his fellow converts to Christianity are delighted to hear the apostle say that "God shows no partiality." Some of the early Jewish Christians believed that the good news of Jesus was intended only for the Jews. But Peter insisted that Jesus' mission was to all nations. He pointed to the Baptism of Jesus as the beginning of his ministry, the day when he was "anointed with the Holy Spirit and power."

### **Gospel Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**

We all want to be recognized for who we really are. Today's gospel reading describes that memorable day when Jesus had the joy of being recognized by John the Baptist and approved by God as "God's beloved Son." Although Jesus did not need to be baptized (since he was without sin), he wanted to identify himself as closely as possible with God's people.

Take a few minutes today to be thankful for your Baptism. Ask Jesus to help you recognize yourself more deeply as a beloved daughter or son of God.

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