



Dove

Wednesday 15th January



Valente, Liz, Baptism of Jesus,

from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59319> [retrieved January 11, 2025]. Original source: Liz Valente, <https://www.instagram.com/donalizvalente/>.

Scripture: Psalm 105.1-15

- O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.
2 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.
3 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
4 Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.
5 Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered,
6 O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
7 He is the Lord our God; his judgements are in all the earth.
8 He is mindful of his covenant for ever, of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

⁹ the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac,
¹⁰ which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
¹¹ saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance."
¹² When they were few in number, of little account, and strangers in it,
¹³ wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people,
¹⁴ he allowed no one to oppress them; he rebuked kings on their account,
¹⁵ saying, 'Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm.'

To reflect

Today's word for reflection is 'Dove', in the Gospel of Luke's account of Jesus' baptism we are told '*Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the 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 Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."*' (Luke 3.21-22). The Holy Spirit is represented by a Dove.

The dove represents peace but also is part of the sign of the covenant of God with humanity through Noah. Noah was told to send out a dove each day until the sign came that the flood waters had subsided, God gave the rainbow as a sign of the promise that humanity would not experience a great flood again. The dove acted as the bringer of peace. In the Law of Moses doves and turtle doves were the only birds that could be sacrificed as they were deemed 'clean'.

Whitsunday by George Herbert

Listen sweet Dove unto my song,
And spread thy golden wings in me;
Hatching my tender heart so long,
Till it get wing, and flie away with thee.

Where is that fire which once descended
On thy Apostles? thou didst then
Keep open house, richly attended,
Feasting all comers by twelve chosen men.

Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow,
That th' earth did like a heav'n appeare;
The starres were coming down to know
If they might mend their wages, and serve here.

The sunne, which once did shine alone,
Hung down his head, and wisht for night,
When he beheld twelve sunnes for one
Going about the world, and giving light.

But since those pipes of gold, which brought
That cordiall water to our ground,
Were cut and martyr'd by the fault
Of those, who did themselves through their side wound,

Thou shutt'st the doore, and keep'st within;
Scarce a good joy creeps through the chink:
And if the braves of conqu'ring sinne
Did not excite thee, we should wholly sink.
Lord, though we change, thou art the same;
The same sweet God of love and light:
Restore this day, for thy great name,
Unto his ancient and miraculous right.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

To Listen (these and other suggestions can be found on a Spotify playlist at
<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0F5bU2sf4OiOtQY3q78Rf2?si=a99cbbf61e7d44587>)

- ‘O for the Wings of a Dove’ by Felix Mendelssohn, one version is by the London Philamonic Choir. In Psalm 55.6-8, David in his distress wishes that he had the wings of a dove, that he might fly away and be at rest.
- ‘The Dove’ by Andrew Holt, Austin Davis, Cody Carnes and Kari Jobe, one version is by Kari Jobe and The Belonging Co. This worship song traces the imagery of the Dove as a representation of God’s Spirit from the beginning of creation to the present.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.