



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 10, 2021

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What Baptism Reveals

As We Gather

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. At Jesus' Baptism, God the Father speaks from heaven, revealing Jesus to be His beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove. All three persons of the Trinity make their presence known at Jesus' Baptism. All three persons of the Trinity made their presence known at our Baptism as well as we are revealed to be God's beloved children.

Prelude and Welcome

Ringing of the Tower Bell

404 Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered

- 1 Jesus, once with sinners numbered,
Had no blemish of His own;
In the waters of the Jordan
His true worth and work were shown:
Heaven opened and the Spirit
There descended like a dove,
As the Father's voice resounded,
"Hear My Son, the One I love."

- 2 John confessed Him as the Savior—
"Look, the sinless Lamb of God!"
Yet he dared not loose the sandals
Of the One God's love had shod.
Oh, how fair the feet of Jesus,
Bringing news of peace to us,
Christ, the herald of salvation,
Preaching mercy from the cross:

**3 This the baptism that our Savior
Greatly longed to undergo;
This the crimson cleansing needed
So the world God's love might know;
This the mission of Messiah
As He stepped from Jordan's stream,
He, the chosen and anointed
Son of God, sent to redeem.**

**4 Jesus, once with sinners numbered,
Full obedience was Your path;
You, by death, have consecrated
Water in this saving bath:
Dying to the sin of Adam,
Rising to a life of grace;
We are counted with the righteous,
Over us the cross You trace.**

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Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Genesis 1:1–2; Psalm 29:3–4

P In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

C **And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**

P And God said, “Let there be light.”

C **The voice of the Lord is over the waters.**

P The voice of the Lord is powerful.

C **The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

P The voice of the Lord reveals Jesus as His Son.

C **The voice of the Lord reveals we are His children too.**

Confession and Absolution

P In Holy Baptism, each of us was baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In Baptism, we were united with Christ. Yet, we have often lived as if we were entirely independent and autonomous. We have lived as if our identity were not in Jesus, but in our own selfish desires. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to turn back to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

P Heavenly Father,

C **we confess that we are by nature sinful and have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. On account of Jesus, forgive us, renew us, and unite us to Your name.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. In Baptism, you were united to Christ in both His death and resurrection. You were buried with Him, but also raised to walk in newness of life. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen. We are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

Introit

Psalm 2:7–11, 12c; antiphon: Isaiah 42:1a

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

Now therefore, O kings, be wise;

be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear,

and rejoice with trembling,

for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Salutation & Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

- ¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**
- ³The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over many waters.
- ⁴**The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**
- ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶**He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷The voice of the LORD
flashes forth flames of fire.
- ⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth
and strips the forests bare,
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**
- ¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Epistle

Romans 6:1-11

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:4-11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon "Title"

596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized

- 1 All Christians who have been baptized,
Who know the God of heaven,
And in whose daily life is prized
The name of Christ once given:
Consider now what God has done,
The gifts He gives to ev'ryone
Baptized into Christ Jesus!
- 2 You were before your day of birth,
Indeed, from your conception,
Condemned and lost with all the earth,
None good, without exception.
For like your parents' flesh and blood,
Turned inward from the highest good,
You constantly denied Him.
- 3 But all of that was washed away—
Immersed and drowned forever.
The water of your Baptism day
Restored again whatever
Old Adam and his sin destroyed
And all our sinful selves employed
According to our nature.

- 4 In Baptism we now put on Christ—
 Our shame is fully covered
 With all that He once sacrificed
 And freely for us suffered.
 For here the flood of His own blood
 Now makes us holy, right, and good
 Before our heav'nly Father.
- 5 O Christian, firmly hold this gift
 And give God thanks forever!
 It gives the power to uplift
 In all that you endeavor.
 When nothing else revives your soul,
 Your Baptism stands and makes you whole
 And then in death completes you.
- 6 So use it well! You are made new—
 In Christ a new creation!
 As faithful Christians, live and do
 Within your own vocation,
 Until that day when you possess
 His glorious robe of righteousness
 Bestowed on you forever!

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Sermon “What Baptism Reveals” Mark 1:1-11

Organ Offertory and Steward *MINUTE*

- Offering Prayer

Small Catechism

Holy Baptism - First

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Which is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

590 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

st. 1

- 1 Baptized into Your name most holy,
 O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
 I claim a place, though weak and lowly,
 Among Your saints, Your chosen host.
 Buried with Christ and dead to sin,
 Your Spirit now shall live within.

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Holy Baptism - Second

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

590 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

st. 2

**2 My loving Father, here You take me
To be henceforth Your child and heir.
My faithful Savior, here You make me
The fruit of all Your sorrows share.
O Holy Spirit, comfort me
When threat'ning clouds around I see.**

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Holy Baptism - Third

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” (Titus 3:5–8)

590 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

st. 3

**3 My faithful God, You fail me never;
Your promise surely will endure.
O cast me not away forever
If words and deeds become impure.
Have mercy when I come defiled;
Forgive, lift up, restore Your child.**

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Holy Baptism - Fourth

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans, chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4)

590 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

st. 4

- 4 All that I am and love most dearly—
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely;
Help me Your faithful child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own
Serve any will but Yours alone.

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Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

- C** Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Pax Domini & Benediction

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.
P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine
on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with
favor and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen.

594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

- 1 God's own child, I gladly say it:
I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it,
Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free
Lasting to eternity!
- 2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer:
I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger:
Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me
Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood,
Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?

- 3 Satan, hear this proclamation:
I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation,
I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled,
All your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny,
God, my Lord, unites with me!**
- 4 Death, you cannot end my gladness:
I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness
To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine
To make life immortal mine.**
- 5 There is nothing worth comparing
To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring:
Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ;
I'm a child of paradise!**

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✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠

To God Alone Be Glory

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
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