

The Baptism of Our Lord



“You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.” Mark 1:11

Matthew 3:1-6, 13-17

John Preaches Repentance - 1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.’”

4 Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Jesus Baptized by John - 13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?” 15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

(Read also: Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21,22, John 1:29-35)

Matthew 28:18-20

The Great Commission - 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not water only, but it is water used together with God's Word and by His command.

Which is that Word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Go therefore 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

What benefits does God give in Baptism?

In Baptism God forgives sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe what He has promised. "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." Mark 16:16

How can water do such great things?

It is not water that does these things, but God's Word with the water and our trust in this Word. Water by itself is only water, but with the Word of God it is a life-giving water which by grace gives the new birth through the Holy Spirit.

St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:5-7

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It means that our sinful self, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be drowned through daily repentance; and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever.
(Taken from Luther's Small Catechism)

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "We 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." Romans 6:4

A Closer Look: *The Baptism of Jesus*

- 1. Why did the Old Testament call John the Baptist “One crying in the wilderness”?**
- 2. Who did John tell the people to get ready for?**
- 3. Why did Jesus go to the Jordan river?**
- 4. Why did John say that Jesus should baptize him instead?**
- 5. What did the people see after Jesus was baptized?**
- 6. What did the voice from Heaven say about Jesus? Who spoke these words?**
- 7. Why was Jesus baptized?**
- 8. The three persons of the Trinity were present at the baptism of Jesus. Name them.**
- 9. How many times do you have to be baptized?**
- 10. When do we remember our baptism?**
- 11. Have you been baptized? What can you tell about that day?**