

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. (v3)

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit & revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water & the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, & all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit & fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor & to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, & when Jesus also had been baptized & was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. & a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Consider *Psalm 2:7, Isaiah 42:1*. For whose benefit is the voice from heaven (v22)? See *Luke 9:28-36, 22:32-47; Mark 15:39*.
2. Compare this account of Jesus' baptism with the other gospels. What similarities & differences do you notice? What do the differences imply or suggest or direct your focus to? See *Matthew 3:11-17; Mark 1:6-11; John 1:24-34*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Review the Small & Large Catechism sections on Holy Baptism. What encourages you? What surprises you? What corrections do they provide to you? [SC, LC available bookofconcord.org](http://sc.lc.availablebookofconcord.org)>
4. In your baptism you received the Holy Spirit's personal presence in your everyday life. Review the details of your last few days- how have you responded to & ignored or (blatantly) denied the Spirit? See *1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:15-19; 2 Corinthians 3:3; Ephesians 2:21-22; 1 Peter 2:4-5*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. More people are baptized & given the Holy Spirit than participate in the life of body of Christ, the Church; how can you help them remember their baptisms?
6. While the Bible commands Baptism (*Matthew 28:19-20*) it doesn't **limit** such to infants & children. What would it take for your congregation to have more adult baptisms? The most dynamic, growing congregations have a mix of infant & adult baptisms. How can you help your congregation welcome adults to Holy Baptism?

Festival of Our Lord's Baptism

01.12.25

Series: Faith through Action

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

5 men to guide into the new year

St. John the Baptizer

Initiated as one with whom God is well pleased

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. & a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (v22)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." (*Matthew 3:17*)

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