

Congregation at Prayer
✠ Baptism of Our Lord ✠

*A Guide for Daily Family Prayer
For the Week of January 13th to 19th*

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

If you're ever curious about God's will, just come back to your Baptism. There you don't need to wonder any longer. There's no doubt in Baptism, no uncertainties—all you have is water and the promise of God applied to you.

The Baptism of Jesus is a description of what your Baptism was also like. For you, just as for Jesus, the heavens opened, the Spirit of God descended (like a dove), and the voice of the Heavenly Father proclaimed: *“This is My beloved Son, with Him I am well pleased.”*

Our Lord didn't intend for Baptism to be only something only for the first Christians. He intended this to be the regular practice of His Church. We know this because He instituted that it be done. That's what's going on in the passage from Matthew 28:

“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.” (Mt 28:19)

With those words, we know the Father's will. We know His desire to make disciples, that is, followers and recipients of His gifts. And we know, above all, that by putting His name upon us, He desires us to be His own.

So if you're ever in doubt about God's will for you; if you ever find yourself second guessing how you stand before His eyes; then look at your Baptism. There the Heavenly verdict was spoken for you. There God claimed you as His own. There your sins are forgiven. There you become His and He becomes yours. And there's no doubt—that's the Word of the Lord.

And then we get even more comfort and blessing from the *learn-by-heart* passage from Acts. There we learn that this Baptism delivers not only the forgiveness of sins, but also and with that, the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit constantly calls us back to this Word, back to these promises, back to what the Heavenly Father thinks and has said of us. The Spirit's job is to enlighten us by His Word—and that all gets started at Baptism.

But there's more yet! This promise isn't just for you, but also for your children, and for all those still to come! God even wants to claim children as His own—infants! He desires all nations, all peoples, all ages and races and sexes and cultures. He desires to deliver His Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of sins even to your children. So why would we dare keep them back?

Baptism is so chalk-full of promises that we can never get enough of it. We can never exhaust them or run out. And best of all, we can always be certain. That's how our Lord works best—by giving us the certainty of faith in Him.

Baptism Delivers the Forgiveness of Sins

Responsive Prayer 2, Lutheran Service Book p.285

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

Acts 2:38-39

“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.’”

Learn-By-Heart Catechism...

Baptism

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)

Daily Readings...

Monday (1/13): Ezekiel 36:13-28; Romans 4:1-25

Tuesday (1/14): Ezekiel 36:33-37:14; Romans 5:1-21

Wednesday (1/15): Ezekiel 37:15-28; Romans 6:1-23

Thursday (1/16): Ezekiel 38:1-23; Romans 7:1-20

Friday (1/17): Ezekiel 39:1-10, 17-29; Romans 7:21-8:17

Saturday (1/18): Ezekiel 40:1-4; 43:1-12; Romans 8:18-39

Sunday (1/19): Ezekiel 44:1-16, 23-29; Romans 9:1-18

Prayer of the Week...

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. Amen.

Psalm of the Week...

Psalm 2

Hymn of the Week... *“All Christians Who Have Been Baptized”* 596

Looking Forward to Next Week...

Isa 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42a