



The Power of Baptism

Isaiah 42:1-9 Titus 3:4-8 Romans 6:3-14 Matt3:13-17
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The word “**baptize**” means to wash, and it is used in the New Testament to describe the Sacrament of **Holy Baptism**, where Jesus is at work to wash your sins away.

We are pretty familiar with **Holy Baptism**, most of us were baptized as infants, as it is our first contact with our Risen Savior¹. We talk about Baptism a lot because it's so important to our Christian faith in life. Through the water of **Holy Baptism**, the **Holy Trinity** claims you as His own by putting His Name on you: you were baptized in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Through the water of **Holy Baptism**, all the gifts of salvation are freely given to you as a free gift. **Holy Baptism** is a significant gift the Lord Almighty gives to you!

In the New Testament, **Holy Baptism** is referred to in many in various ways. For instance in John 3, Jesus refers to it as being “**born again**”:

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:5-6

¹ IF YOU HAVE **NOT** BEEN BAPTIZED . . . then let's talk and get it done! Please contact me or our Deaconess Ruth Fisher and let's get it scheduled!

To show how important this is, Jesus repeats this five times in six verses! “Born again” is a life image; **Baptism** is where God gives you life that will never end. The comparison is to when you were born the first time, by your mother. When you were born the first time from your mother, and **you were passive**; likewise, when you are **Born again** by God in the waters of **Holy Baptism**, **you are passive**. It's God Who is at work in **Baptism** to give you new life. You have eternal life by grace alone, faith alone, and Christ alone. Just as you did nothing to be born the first time; so too you do nothing to be born this second time. You were **Born again** by the power of the Holy Spirit at work through the Word and the water. God has given you new and eternal life in **Holy Baptism** -- you have been **Born again** with water and the Spirit!

In the book of Romans, St Paul teaches that in **Baptism**, you are united to the Savior, and His death, burial, and resurrection.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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. Roman 6:3-5

Being **united to Christ** means that all the blessings of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection are freely given to you in the waters of **Holy Baptism**. Your sins are paid for by His death; they are buried with Christ; and you are raised from the dead to live a new, sinless and holy life. In **Holy Baptism**, your sinful nature dies and is buried; and you are given a new life to live! You have eternal life right now; and it is seen in your holy and godly lifestyle. You have eternal life right now, and physical death will never interrupt it! You are united to Christ and His death, burial, and resurrection --> all the blessings He has earned for us are given to you personally! In **Holy Baptism**, you received the sign of the cross both upon

your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified. Your redemption came through His cross – you have been redeemed from death and given eternal life!

Even Jesus was *Baptized*; but His *Baptism* was **not** to remove His sins, but to take ours upon Himself. Jesus is the sinless Son of God who has no sins to forgive; rather He came into the world to take our sins upon Himself. In His *Baptism*, Jesus the Christ officially begins His work as the Savior of the world. He will gather up our sins and carry them to the cross in Jerusalem. He is our substitute, taking our place under their heavy load and facing the wrath of God for them. He will suffer and He will die with our sins. And in doing so, He will set you free, forgive you, and open up the way for you to live forever in the Kingdom of heaven.

To show how important Jesus' *Baptism* is in salvation history, it is the **only time that the Holy Trinity is publicly seen and heard in one place.** Jesus the Son of God was standing in the water of the Jordan river; the Holy Spirit was seen in the form of a dove descending and remaining on Jesus; and God the Father spoke from heaven saying, "*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*" It is the only time that **all Three Persons of the Holy Trinity are seen and heard publicly.**

What happened at Jesus' *Baptism*, happens at your *Baptism* also.

Jesus' Baptism is a dramatic visual representation of what happened in your Baptism.

When you were baptized, the Holy Spirit came to you and remains with you. You are filled with the Holy Spirit, led by Him, and empowered to live a holy and godly life. The Holy Spirit bears fruit in your life, things such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. The Holy Spirit lives and dwells within you and equips

you with spiritual gifts in order for you to serve God and help your neighbor. We do not see the Holy Spirit at **Baptisms** like it happened at Jesus' **Baptism**; but the promise is that He is given and He remains with the **Baptized** (*Titus 3, John 3*).

At Jesus' **Baptism**, God the Father spoke and acknowledged Jesus as His very own Son. In your **Baptism**, God became your Father in Heaven and promises that you belong to Him as well. You are His beloved son or daughter! He promises to provide all that you need to support your body and life; to provide your daily bread, to protect you from danger; guard and keep you from all evil. His love for you is long, and wide, and high, and deep: it extends to the very hairs of your head!

NOT BAPTIZED?

If you, or your children, have **not been baptized**, then I *urgently* encourage you to make it happen soon!

Holy Baptism is a gift of God where He declares you “not guilty!” of your sins and promises you a home in heaven! **Don't delay!** Please talk to Pastor Bolte or Ruth Fisher for more information!

Your **Baptism gives you a new identity!** You are a **Baptized** disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ! **Holy Baptism** publicly identifies you as a Christian. This is who God has made you to be! This changes everything about you! Because you are “**born again**” and united to Christ, you are free to live your **Baptized** life in Christ! You hear and respond to God's Holy Word! You love and serve your neighbor! You glorify and praise the Lord God Almighty with your thoughts, words, and deeds! Your **Baptism** changes everything!

Holy Baptism is a significant work of God in your life – through it you have eternal salvation and a relationship with the One True and Only God!

You are a **Baptized Disciple
of the Lord Jesus Christ –
let your life reflect that!**

AMEN!