

JANUARY 8, 2023
BAPTISM OF
OUR LORD



Baptism leads us to speak of Christ to others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 42:1-9	The Lord's servants
Tuesday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Wednesday	Romans 10:5-17	Salvation is for all
Thursday	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Jeremiah's call and commission
Friday	Colossians 4:2-5	Rules for Christian living
Saturday	Psalms 29	Voice of God in a storm
Sunday	John 1:29-42	Jesus, the Lamb of God

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"You know the message he [God] sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced.

Acts 10:36-37 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for the ministry of Jesus that began with his baptism and announced that he is your Son and the Beloved. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you that through your glory and strength, you give us food from your creation and send us out in Jesus' name. Amen. (Psalm 29:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May you go forth knowing you are a beloved child of God.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

I Love to Tell the Story



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What gives you strength and confidence to do things each day?
- What does it mean to you that you are God's beloved child?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Acts 10:34-48.

Just prior to Peter baptizing Cornelius (a Roman soldier) and others in his household, Peter speaks and says he now realizes that all—not just Jews—are acceptable to God. Peter speaks of Jesus and his ministry that began with the baptism of John and Jesus' anointing "with the Holy Spirit and with power" (v. 38). Jesus' baptism by John is not the same as our baptism, but Peter does make a clear connection. The same Holy Spirit that is at Jesus' baptism is also at our baptism. As Cornelius and his group heard Peter's sermon about Jesus, the circumcised believers present were amazed that this non-Jewish community had received the Holy Spirit. Because of that, Peter was compelled to baptize all of them. Jesus' baptism leads to his public ministry just as our baptism leads us by the power of the Holy Spirit to witness to what God has done and continues to do through Christ our Lord. Our own baptism and that of others creates an opportunity to witness to the Christian faith.

Discuss: How does a baptism give someone an opportunity to speak about the Christian faith?

Pray: **God of power and might, just as Jesus received the Holy Spirit and power in his baptism, empower us in ours to speak of your saving work through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you show the Christian faith through actions and words?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Jesus' baptism by John leads Jesus into his public ministry filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Since the New Testament, baptism has initiated our life in Christ to go out into the world in Jesus' name. Make a list of how you would like to be empowered by God to do good and to bring God's healing power to others. Bless one another with these words: **Go out in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit with the peace of God meant for all.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org