

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

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

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, creator of light & giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, & transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Mark 1:4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside & all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, & were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, & he ate locusts & wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down & untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee & was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart & the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And 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. How do you see the Holy Trinity at work in this Bible story? See *John 1:1-4*; *Small Catechism: Apostles' Creed; Nicene & Athanasian Creeds* (see *LBW** p64, 54-55 or google it) By the way, the Holy Spirit isn't actually a dove. *SC, Nicene, & Athanasian Creeds* available bookofconcord.org *(*Lutheran Book of Worship* 1978, published by Augsburg Fortress)
2. How does St. John's call to repentance to both Jews & Gentiles anticipate what St. Paul will write later? See *Romans 1:16, 3:29-30, 10:12-15; 1 Cor 12:13; Galatians 3:26-28, 5:6; Ephesians 2:13-22, 3:5-10; Colossians 3:11*

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

3. Read *vv12-13*. What do you learn about the reality of life until Jesus returns? That is, if this is what happened to Jesus, can you expect better? See *Matthew 10:16-23, 24:9-10; Mark 13:9-13; Luke 6:22-23, 21:12-17, 22:31-34; John 15:18-23; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 1:29; 1 Peter 4:14, 5:8-9; 2 Peter 2:9*
4. Compare this reading with *Titus 3:5-7 & Genesis 1:1-5*. How do you explain the need for Holy Baptism in a faithful life? See *Small Catechism: Creed, Holy Baptism; Mark 16:15-16; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:1-5; 1 Peter 3:21-22;*

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

5. Just as Jesus is the union of divinity & humanity, *v10* shows the union of heaven & earth with him. How is your congregation a union of heaven & earth for the sake of the world (*cf. John 3:16*) there in your community? How would you show & tell about the heavenly things to a new comer, visitor, or pre-Christian friend?
6. Consider *v7* alongside Jesus' claim to be a servant (*Matthew 24:25-28; Mark 10:42-45; Luke 22:24-27; John 13:4-17; also Luke 17:7-10, Romans 1:1, 12:3; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:1-11*). How can you & your congregation adopt this attitude of humble servanthood such that church isn't something we own or are owed (like a country club), but instead is we do for others without criticism, complaint, or critique?

Festival of Our Lord's Baptism

01.07.24

Series: God's Grandeur

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

The Holy Spirit at work in our lives

Our Lives

*The Holy Spirit tears through our illusions,
directing us to new & lasting life*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: & just as [Jesus] was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart & the Spirit descending like a dove on him. (v10)

-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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