

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 3:15-18, 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- 3:15-18, 21-22 (*Lutheran Book of Worship translation*)

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, & all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John 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. ¹⁷His 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." ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. ²¹Now when all the people were baptized, & when Jesus also had been baptized & was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and 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. Identify the evidence for the Holy Trinity in this story.
2. Identify the evidence that Jesus is fully God & fully human. (*See also Matthew 3:14-15*)

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

3. At our baptisms the community surrounded us, prayed for us, & made promises for us. What does it mean to you to be baptized into a community?
4. In vv23-38, following this lesson, Luke tells us that Jesus "was the son (so it was thought) of Joseph," & then includes a full list of ancestors. Why do you think Luke does this here? Who are your ancestors? Which ones do you wish you knew more about? Whom would you prefer not to know about? *Note: Make use you're your Bible's study notes.*

#3, 4 courtesy Rev. Nathan Hilkert, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Athens GA

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

5. Many people wish to see something like v22; what evidence would you point to of the Holy Spirit in everyday life? Start with Small Catechism Creed, 3. Remember the Holy Spirit is a person at work, not a happy feeling welling up inside you. SC available < bookofconcord.org >
6. 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? In other words, what are some helpful, encouraging things you can do to help baptized family members & neighbors who have "grown cold" in their faith to "fan the flames" (v16)?

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Me & Jesus & You

*As evangelists, we share the good news that Holy Baptism is
deeply personal & widely communal*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Now when all the people were baptized, & when Jesus also had been baptized & was praying... a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (vv21-22)

-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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