

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

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

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son & anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters & sons, & empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius & his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him & does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit & with power; how he went about doing good & healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea & in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day & allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, & who ate & drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people & to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living & the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. First, brush on Holy Baptism by reading about it in the Small Catechism, available bookofconcord.org. What three things stand out the most to you? How come?
2. Identify the trinitarian aspects of the Acts 10 story; see SC: *Creed for more*.

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

3. How does St. Peter's eyewitness testimony (vv39-42) add authenticity to the truth of Jesus, his Gospel of forgiveness, & Holy Baptism? See *John 18:12-27, 20:1-10, 21:15-21; Acts 1:15-21; 1 John 1:1-4*
4. Substitute "has confidence" & "trusts" for "believes" (v43). How does each substitution shift your understanding of what is expected in our belief/faith? *Hint it's not about repeating facts or verbal formulas, even though they are both important.*

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

5. While the Bible commands Baptism (*Matthew 28:19-20*) it doesn't limit such to infants & children. What would it take for your congregation to have more **adult** baptisms? The most dynamic, growing congregations have a mix of infant & adult baptisms. How can you help your congregation welcome adults to Holy Baptism (*cf. vv44-48*)?
6. Commit in your 2023 prayers to praying that God sends your congregation a record number of Adults for Holy Baptism. Who in your everyday life needs Holy Baptism or (if already baptized) spiritual awakening? Pray for them as well.

For All

What would it look like if more people got baptized here?

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. (v4.)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." (*Mathew 3:17*)

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

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

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son & anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters & sons, & empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius & his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him & does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit & with power; how he went about doing good & healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea & in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day & allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, & who ate & drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people & to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living & the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. First, brush on Holy Baptism by reading about it in the Small Catechism, available bookofconcord.org. What three things stand out the most to you? How come?
2. Identify the trinitarian aspects of the Acts 10 story; see SC: Creed for more.

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

3. How does St. Peter's eyewitness testimony (vv39-42) add authenticity to the truth of Jesus, his Gospel of forgiveness, & Holy Baptism? See *John 18:12-27, 20:1-10, 21:15-21; Acts 1:15-21; 1 John 1:1-4*
4. Substitute "has confidence" & "trusts" for "believes" (v43). How does each substitution shift your understanding of what is expected in our belief/faith? *Hint it's not about repeating facts or verbal formulas, even though they are both important.*

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

5. While the Bible commands Baptism (*Matthew 28:19-20*) it doesn't limit such to infants & children. What would it take for your congregation to have more **adult** baptisms? The most dynamic, growing congregations have a mix of infant & adult baptisms. How can you help your congregation welcome adults to Holy Baptism (*cf. vv44-48*)?
6. Commit in your 2023 prayers to praying that God sends your congregation a record number of Adults for Holy Baptism. Who in your everyday life needs Holy Baptism or (if already baptized) spiritual awakening? Pray for them as well.

For All

What would it look like if more people got baptized here?

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. (v4.)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." (*Mathew 3:17*)