

# *In the* HOUSE *of the* LORD



## LESSON #7 – HOMEWORK

Early Christians observed the Sacrament of Holy Baptism regularly. Baptismal practices are spoken of in the Book of Acts and the writings of one of the early Christian Church fathers, Justin Martyr, in the first century, as well as in the second century writing “The Didache.”

The early Christians baptized infants shortly after birth. The early Christians baptized adult converts after a period of instruction – often three years. New Christians were customarily baptized at the Easter Vigil, the Saturday evening before the Festival of Easter on Sunday morning.

The essential elements of the order of service for Baptism has changed little over the centuries. The Order of Holy Baptism that is found in Christian Worship Occasional Services, remains very similar to Martin Luther’s baptismal service of the 1520s.

### **Digging Deeper**

#### **Order of Holy Baptism from Christian Worship Occasional Services:**

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ gave his Church the command to baptize when he said: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Scripture makes plain the universal need for Baptism. As children of Adam, we belong to a fallen race. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature and would be lost forever unless delivered by our Lord Jesus Christ. He willingly took on himself the curse of sin and by his death on the cross redeemed us and all people.

Christ’s almighty Word gives Baptism its power to save. The apostle Peter declares, “Baptism now saves you.” Scripture also clearly teaches that the power and promise of Baptism is intended for young and old alike. On the day of Pentecost the apostle testified, “The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” By water and the Spirit, we are born again and united with Christ and his people as members of the Church.

#### *For the baptism of infants and young children*

M: In bringing *this child* to Baptism, you are doing what is God-pleasing. Jesus himself invited little children to become a part of his kingdom when he said: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them, and blessed them.

#### *For the baptism of older children and adults*

M: In coming to be baptized, you are doing what is God-pleasing. Ananias said to the apostle Paul after his conversion, “Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away.”

Through your baptism, God gives you forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

*The minister marks the sign of the cross on each of those present for Baptism, saying:*

M: Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart † to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ.

M: Let us pray. Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father, through your stern judgment the unbelieving world was destroyed by the flood, but according to your great mercy, you saved Noah and his family. You engulfed stubborn Pharaoh and his army in the waters of the Red Sea but led your people through those same waters to safety on dry land. In the waters of the Jordan your own Son was baptized and anointed with the Spirit. By these signs you foreshadowed the precious, cleansing bath which you give us in Holy Baptism.

Clinging to your command and promise, we ask that you would look with favor on \_\_\_\_\_. Through this water of Baptism, drown in *him* all sin inherited from Adam and any other evil *he* may do. Set *him* apart from the unbelieving world and hold *him* safe and secure in the holy ark of the Church. Keep *him* always fervent in spirit and joyful in hope so that *he* may honor your holy name and at last receive, together with all your people, the promised inheritance of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***Add the renouncing of the devil, the baptismal portion and the promises by the parents, godparents and congregation.***

Read Ephesians 2:1-2. According to the baptismal service, why is Baptism needed?

Read Mark 10:13-16. Why do you think these verses are included in this baptismal service?

Read John 3:5. Why is it appropriate to ask the adult before being baptized: "Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?"

The baptismal prayer in this baptismal service compares Baptism to the Flood, the Red Sea and the Jordan River. Read Genesis 6-8 and 1 Peter 3:18-22. How is Baptism like the Flood?

Read Exodus 14 and 1 Corinthians 10:1-4. How is Baptism like the Red Sea?

Read Matthew 3:13-17 and 2 Corinthians 1:20-22. How is Baptism like the Jordan River?

Read Revelation 14:1. The 144,000 are the symbolic number of all God's saints in heaven. They have a "sign" or "seal" on their foreheads. When was that sign placed over their head and heart?

What is the connection between being baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and the pastor making the sign of the cross, and the way we begin our worship services with the Invocation?

Read 2 Kings 5:1-14 and Titus 3:4-7. What is the connection between Baptism and Naaman being cleansed of his leprosy?

Read about some of the baptisms recorded in the New Testament. What happened in each account? What do you learn about Baptism from each account?

- John the Baptist: Luke 3:1-22
- Pentecost: Acts 2:14-47
- Ethiopian eunuch: Acts 8:26-40
- Saul: Acts 9:1-22
- Cornelius' household: Acts 10:24-48
- Lydia's household: Acts 16:1-15
- The jailer's household: Acts 16:16-40
- Crispus' household: Acts 18:1-8
- Another account of Saul: Acts 22:1-16

Since salvation hinges on the faith that the Holy Spirit gives us in Baptism (Mark 16:16), it is vital for you to stay in the faith through your daily Bible reading.

**Daily Bible Reading:** Luke 13-18

**Memorize the following passage:** Acts 2:38 Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

## **Digging Even Deeper**

In his Small Catechism, Martin Luther explains the meaning, power and blessings of Holy Baptism:

### **The Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

As the head of the family should teach it in the simplest way to those in his household.

#### **The Institution of Baptism**

*First: What is Baptism?*

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is water used by God's command and connected with God's Word.

*Which is that Word of God?*

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!"

## **The Blessings of Baptism**

*Second: What does Baptism do for us?*

Baptism works forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and the devil and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

*What is God's promise?*

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

## **The Power of Baptism**

*Third: How can water do such great things?*

It is certainly not the water that does such things, but God's Word which is in and with the water, and faith which trusts this Word used with the water.

For without God's Word the water is just plain water and not Baptism. But with this Word it is Baptism. God's Word makes it a washing through which God graciously forgives our sin and grants us rebirth and a new life through the Holy Spirit.

*Where is this written?*

St. Paul says in Titus, chapter 3, "God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying."

## **The Meaning of Baptism for Our Daily Life**

*Fourth: What does baptizing with water mean?*

It means that our Old Adam with his evil deeds and desires should be drowned by daily contrition and repentance, and die, and that day by day a new man should arise, as from the dead, to live in the presence of God in righteousness and purity now and forever.

*Where is this written?*

St. Paul says in Romans, chapter 6, "We were buried with Christ through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

