

BAPTISM; CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

St. John Lutheran Church, Easter 2015

What is Baptism?

- *What is Baptism?*
 - Baptism is not simple water only, but it is the water included in 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 therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" [Matthew 28:19].

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

- To Baptize means to apply water by immersing, washing, pouring, and the like.
- The water itself is not special, but it is so because God's Word and commandment are added to it.
- Baptism was instituted by Christ, and He commanded that all nations be baptized.
- Normally, pastors baptize; but in emergencies and when no pastor is available, any Christian should baptize.
- Babies vs. Adults: Those who can receive instruction before Baptism should, while babies are brought by those who have authority over them.

The Blessings of Baptism

- What benefits does Baptism give?
 - It works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.
- Which are these words and promises of God?
 - 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” [Mark 16:16].

All the Benefits

- It works the forgiveness of sins.
 - Acts 2:38, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."
 - Acts 22:16, "Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins."
- It rescues from death and the devil.
 - Rom. 6:3, 5, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death...If we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."
- It gives eternal salvation.
 - Mk. 16:16

BUT WHY BAPTIZE?

Christ indeed won full forgiveness and salvation for us. He gives it to us in Baptism. (Baptism being a means of grace.)

The Power of Baptism

- *How can water do such great things?*
- It is not the water indeed that does them, but the Word of God, which is in and with the water, and faith, which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without the Word of God the water is simple water and no Baptism. But with the Word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit. As St. Paul says in Titus chapter three, “He saved us ... by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy” [vv. 5–8].

What Baptism Indicates

- *What does such baptizing with water signify?*
- It signifies that the old Adam in us should, by daily contrition and repentance, be drowned and die with all sins and evil lusts. And also it shows that a new man should daily come forth and arise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.
- *Where is this written?*
- St. Paul says in Romans chapter 6, "We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" [v. 4].

A RETURN TO BAPTISM

Confession and Absolution