

Baptism of Isabel Grace Cestarte
July 23, 2022
“Good gifts from God!” (Luke 11:5-13)
By Rev. Ed Weber

“Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today’s text for this celebration of the baptism of Isabel is from Luke 11:5-13.

“5 And He said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; 7 and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’? 8 I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. 9 “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!””

Here ends our text.

This is a portion of tomorrow’s Gospel where Jesus teaches the disciples the Lord’s Prayer. And how He invites us to call His Father, our dear Father, and ask of Him for all that we need in this life. Most especially we ask our dear Father for the spiritual gifts of forgiveness through Jesus, life in Him and eternal salvation. He gives us these through the Holy Spirit in baptism that Isabel will receive shortly.

I. God is never bothered to answer our prayers
For God it’s never a bother to ask Him. He invites you to ask, seek, and knock. And I give thanks to God that Matthew and Karen have sought this great gift of Holy Baptism from God for their daughter. I give thanks to God for all of you who lift your prayers to God now and in the future for Isabel. God is never bothered by them.

In our lives, we don't like to inconvenience others and be a bother to others. In our reading Jesus gives the example of a man who needed a favor from his friend. He had already retired for the night with his family and wasn't too wild about getting up. We have routines that we don't like to get off of, like putting a child to bed. You can be assured and comforted that Isabel's prayers to God are never a bother.

II. God gives us His best gifts, especially baptism!

And be assured and comforted that God will always give to her Good gifts. Better than she or you or I ask for. We who are evil. That's why God gives us baptism. Because we are evil from the moment we are conceived. We want to give the best gifts to our children. And so we wouldn't give a rock, snake or a scorpion to our kids if they ask for bread, fish or an egg.

We try to give things to our children that won't spoil them, but help them. But we're imperfect. But God isn't. (examples)

He saw our greatest need and gifted to us His very Son, Jesus. The greatest gift to all mankind. He gave His life to rescue us from our sins and gives to us Himself, the Bread of Life.

III. We live each day in Christ's victory through our baptism

And to seal this gift to you and Isabel, He personally gives you the victory that Jesus won on the cross through simple water and His Word. He unites us to His death and resurrection in our baptisms. And as we will hear tomorrow in the epistle from Colossians, He nailed the law and its requirements to the cross. There they stayed, never to accuse Isabel of her sin. For through her baptism, she is given the robe of Jesus righteousness.

Yes, we're imperfect people, but God has a great plan for Isabel. He will guide her by His Holy Spirit, keep her in the faith, and has made her an heir of eternal life. God is good always! What a comfort for you to know she is in her dear Father's hands through the power of the Holy Spirit!

“how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

God's mercy and compassion is infinite and so we ask with absolute confidence and persistence! Amen.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your heart and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)