GRACE AT HOME



THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

1ST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

We have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father." – John 1:14

It has become tradition in the church that the 1st Sunday after Epiphany is dedicated to the baptism of Jesus. The season of Epiphany, or Epiphanytide, is a time in which we recall different moments in which Jesus is revealed as the Son of God, and the Word made flesh. Listen for the phrase "My beloved Son." What happens as these words are spoken?

HYMN "From God the Father, Virgin Born", #83

From God the Father, virgin-born To us the only Son came down; By death the font to consecrate, The faithful to regenerate.

Abide with us, O Lord, we pray; The gloom of darkness chase away; Your work of healing, Lord, begin, And take away the stain of sin.



PSALM FOR THE WEEK

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Psalm 85

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. But John tried to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?"

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Jesus answered him, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John allowed him to be baptized.

When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased."

QUESTIONS TO TALK ABOUT AT HOME

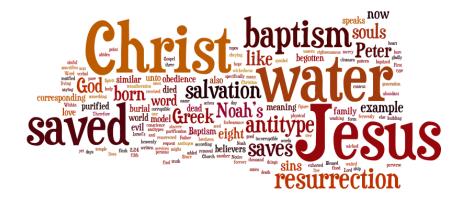
- 1. Where did Jesus come from and where did He go?
- 2. Why did Jesus go to John?
- 3. What happened when Jesus came up out of the water after John baptized Him?
- 4. Who descended on Him like a dove?
- 5. Who was the voice from heaven? What did He say?

PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE

Jesus

In the Gospel reading today we hear about Jesus being baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. This baptism was the moment in

which Christ first is declared publicly to be the Son of God, the long awaited Messiah foretold in the Old Testament, and marking the official beginning of His ministry. As it says in the reading, Jesus was baptized to "fulfill all righteousness." In this righteousness, or making us right with God, Jesus identified with you as a sinner, alid on Him the sins of the whole world, to save sinners from their sin, which is why He came in the first place. After His baptism, Jesus spent almost 3 years preaching the Good News of God's grace, teaching people what it means to trust that grace, and Performing miracles and healing people of many diseases so that we might know that He is the Son of God who came to earth and the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. His life, death and resurrection (when He rose from the dead) are written about in the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). Because of all these things Jesus did, now your baptism unites you with Christ and He has come to save you. No matter what you are doing in life, you can remember your baptism and trust, knowing that you are safe in Jesus.



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Father in Heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan, you proclaimed Him Your Beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful in there calling to be Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen



REVIEW

- 1. Jesus taught & performed _____ for about 3 years.
- 2. Jesus was baptized by _____.

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- 3. We hear about the life of Jesus in the four _____.
- 4. This week we celebrate the Baptism of our _____.
- 5. The baptism of Jesus marked the official _____ of His ministry.
- 6. Jesus was the promised _____ from the Old Testament.
- 7. The Spirit of God descended on Jesus like a . .
- 8. Your _____ reminds you that you are safe in Jesus.
- 9. A voice from heaven said, "This is my _____ Son, with whom I am well pleased."
- 10. This baptism laid on Jesus the _____ of all the people.



DAILY READINGS

Monday – Isaiah 43:1-13 Tuesday – Ezekiel 47:1-12 Wednesday – John 13:1-15 Thursday – John 1:29-34 Friday – Romans 6:1-11



CATECHISM CORNER

THE 7TH COMMANDMENT

You shall not steal.

What does this mean? We are to fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or property, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of making a living.