

JANUARY 12, 2020

## BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



God announces who Jesus is.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 42:1-9	The Lord's servant
Tuesday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Wednesday	Matthew 1:1-17	Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah
Thursday	Matthew 2:19-23	Holy family's return from Egypt
Friday	Acts 10:44-48	Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
Saturday	Psalm 29	Voice of God in a storm
Sunday	John 1:29-42	Jesus, the Lamb of God

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” **Matthew 3:17 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who comes to fulfill your promise of life and salvation for all. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

God bless this food. God bless this day. God keep us safe in every way. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you strength and bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:11)

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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

Christ, When for Us  
You Were Baptized



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How do you describe yourself to others? How do others describe you?
- What does it mean to be “well pleased” with someone?
- What does it mean to you that God calls Jesus “My Son, the Beloved”?

### DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Matthew 3:13-17.

We can quickly move from Jesus’ baptism to wonder about our own. What can be missed is a focus on the importance of Jesus’ baptism as a statement of who Jesus is. We are not the savior of the world, Jesus is (Matthew 1:21-23). Jesus fulfills the righteous intent of God announced by the law and the prophets (Matthew 3:15-17), not us. Jesus’ presence announces God’s ruling activity among Israel and the nations (1:1-17; 2:1-12). Jesus’ life fulfills the word of the prophets (2:23). All of that leads to Jesus’ baptism and the divine voice from heaven that points to Jesus as the anointed one (Christ). Yes, it is good to reflect on our baptism and do so in a way that finds comfort and meaning in the identity of who Jesus is, whose own baptism stands alone to announce that God’s will is fulfilled in this one and this one alone. Think about Jesus’ baptism and what it means for you and others.

*Pray:* Almighty and living God, we give thanks for Jesus’ baptism that announces that he is the one who comes as your Son and enters the world as our Savior and Lord. Amen.



### SERVICE

In Isaiah 42 we read about a servant described as being humble in service to God. A servant can be described as one who performs duties or works for others. As Christians, our call is to serve God. What does it mean to you to be called a servant of God? In what ways do you feel you can answer this call?



### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

When we describe someone as beloved, it means we love that person dearly. God named Jesus as beloved at his baptism. When we are baptized, we too, become a beloved member of God’s family. Take time to remember your baptism. Revisit pictures or think of the memories you have of your baptism or that of another. Fill a small bowl with water and after revisiting memories, dip your fingers in the water and as you mark the sign of the cross on your forehead or that of another say, **“You are a beloved child of God marked with the cross of Christ forever.”**