

Baptism of Our Lord

Introduction:

Before the ministry of Jesus began, John the Baptist proclaimed the coming of one who would baptize with fire and the Holy Spirit. It is no surprise that when Jesus asks to be baptized by him, John feels unworthy. Yet Jesus, God incarnate, is baptized to fulfill all righteousness. The one who is without sin is treated like a sinner, in the same way that he will later be treated on the cross. In addition, at his baptism, Jesus is given a name. He is proclaimed to be the son of God, the Beloved. Only then does he begin his ministry. It will be a ministry that begins in water and ends in blood shed on a cross for you and me. In our baptism, we too are given a new name, beloved children of the most high God. It is there, forgiven and rising with Christ, we find his promise of salvation, an identity as his child, and a purpose in proclaiming his word to all the world.

Read Your Bible

- Romans 6:1-12
- Matthew 3:13-17

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. What does John say when Jesus asks to be baptized? Why do you think he said this?
2. What is Jesus' response to John?
3. What is the proclamation made over Jesus as he is baptized? Why do you think it is important?
4. Turn to Matthew 4. Where does Jesus go directly after he is baptized?
5. Consider your own baptism. What claim was made over you?
6. Read the text from Romans. What do we experience in baptism?
7. Where is your baptism leading you to take a step of faith?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Father in heaven, we praise you today for your son, Jesus Christ, the Beloved with whom you are well pleased. As Jesus was called into ministry and sacrifice, call us by your Spirit to live lives that tell of your grace. By the waters of Baptism, may we walk in new life with you. In Jesus' name. Amen.