

JANUARY 13, 2019
BAPTISM OF
OUR LORD



In baptism, God calls us by name.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 43:1-7	Restoration and protection
Tuesday	Acts 8:14-17	Receiving the Holy Spirit
Wednesday	Ezekiel 36:24-28	God will make you clean
Thursday	Romans 6:1-11	Baptized into Christ's death
Friday	Matthew 3:13-17	Jesus' baptism
Saturday	Psalms 29	The voice of the Lord
Sunday	John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. **Isaiah 43:1 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, open our ears to hear your voice and our lips to shout your glory. Amen.
(Psalm 29:3-9)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, just as you join us in baptism, grace our table with your presence today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord who has called you by name give strength to you; may the Lord bless you with peace. (Isaiah 43:1 and Psalm 29:11)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
You Are Mine



CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What are nicknames you have been given? Who gave them to you?
- What does it mean to you that God has called you by name, that God knows your name?
- In baptism God's name is placed on us with the words, "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." We become people who bear God's name. How does it influence your life that you live each day with God's name placed on you?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

The Baptism of Jesus Sunday leads us to reflect on our own baptism. Some believe that baptism is something that we do as a commitment to God. It is our decision to accept God. The texts chosen for the Baptism of Jesus points us in another direction: God names and claims us; God's voice is the decisive factor in our faith and in our baptism. If baptism is something we do as an expression of our faith, then our baptism is only as powerful as our commitment to God, something that waxes and wanes as a human and frail commitment. If God is the actor, then one can rely on God's faithfulness, not ours, as the great gift of baptism. Reflect on what it means to you that God calls you by name in baptism.

Pray: **Almighty and living God, thank you for calling us by name in baptism. Help us to trust in you, to believe in your faithfulness to us now and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Baptism happens in a community of faith with the support of others, just like Peter and John extended their support to the newly baptized in Acts 8:14-17. Send a card to someone who has been baptized in the past year or to their family and offer your support for their life of faith. Let them know they are valued. Offer them a blessing in the card and promise to keep the baptized and the family in your prayers.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Baptism claims us as a child of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. It involves a lifetime of intimacy with God. In Luke 3:21 it states that Jesus was praying at the time of his baptism. Prayer is an expression of that intimate relationship with God. Take time this week to remember your own baptism by lighting a candle, looking at baptismal pictures, placing water in a bowl and sitting in silent prayer. Give thanks for Jesus' baptism and your own. Begin a tradition of remembering your baptismal anniversary each year and thinking about your baptism daily when bathing, washing hands, or drinking water.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org