

JANUARY 7, 2018
BAPTISM OF
OUR LORD



God's voice is heard in baptism.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 1:4-11	Baptism of Christ
Monday	Genesis 1:1-5	The first day in all creation
Tuesday	Acts 19:1-7	Baptism into Christ
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:3-9	New birth into a living hope
Thursday	Luke 3:15-22	Baptism of Christ
Friday	Romans 6:1-5	Dying and rising with Christ
Saturday	Psalms 29	The great God over all creation
Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." **Mark 1:11 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, you whose voice makes all things new, make us new this day with baptismal grace. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

In the beginning, God made the heavens, earth, and sky. For life and food and daily care, we praise you, Lord Most High! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who rules over land and sea, give you strength to be God's people. May the Lord bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:10-11)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

I'm Going on a Journey



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- In your daily life, whose voice do you tend to hear, trust, and follow?
- In Genesis 1:3 and Psalm 29, these texts emphasize that God speaks and things happen. How do you hear the voice of God today? How does that impact or change your life?
- What does it mean to you that through your baptism, you are God's beloved child?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 1:9-11 and Acts 19:1-7.

Since the time of the early church, baptism has been referred to as "a mystery," a sacramental act of God that combines Jesus' command, the Holy Spirit, the physical presence of water, and God's promise of forgiveness. Our baptism involves trust and faith that goes beyond our abilities to fully comprehend the work and grace of God. It involves a mystery. How does it bless your life to trust that God has acted in your baptism just as God spoke and acted in the baptism of Jesus? Pray the following prayer:

Pray: **Dear God, creator of goodness and light, your voice moves over the waters and gives us new life in baptism. Come Holy Spirit, forgive us each day as a follower of Jesus and give us life everlasting. Amen.**

SERVICE



The Baptism of our Lord Sunday is a good time to reach out to your baptismal sponsors or someone for whom you have sponsored in baptism. It is also a good time to reach out to someone you have mentored or who has mentored you in the life of faith. Send that person a note of appreciation and thanksgiving as together you live and trust in God's promises.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Christian baptism ushers in a new life in Christ that involves daily repentance and forgiveness. To emphasize the daily renewal we experience in baptism, begin each day by making the sign of the cross on your forehead or over your heart and say: **"In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I am a beloved child of God."** Consider this as a tradition you continue into the future.



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