

God's Voice Upon the Waters

Promise: that in baptism we are called sons and given life and salvation

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 3:13-17
(The Baptism of Our Lord, 1/12/20)

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters – Ps 29:3

Lead In – In the womb each one of us was surrounded by amniotic fluid. The breaking of these waters is associated with labor and birth. At birth and for the rest of our lives we are utterly dependent on water. Our bodies are composed of up to 60% water. And whereas water can be life-giving, it can also be life-threatening. One can drown in water. Water also works to cleanse and to rejuvenate.

I. Association of Water and God's Word Echoing...

- A. When the Spirit was hovering over the face of...
- B. In judgement over the wickedness of man...
- C. At the Red Sea water instrumental in deliverance!
- D. Naaman, the leper, cleansed in the river...

II. Our Lord's Word For the Making of Disciples

- A. The Great Commission in Matthew's Gospel...
- B. A matter of being born of water and the...
- C. A good washing is involved...
- D. A drowning takes place as well...

III. If All This Not Enough, Christ Is Baptized!

- A. John needed to be baptized by Jesus!
- B. Jesus fulfills all righteousness...

Parting Shot – As an illustration of the implications of baptism, mothers often call children in from playing, "Come in, wash up, and come to the table." And that is what Mother Church calls to us this morning...

Gen 1:1-3a In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said...

Gen 6:5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Gen 6:17 For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die.

Ex 14:15-16 The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground."

2 Ki 5:14 So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Matthew 3:13-17 ESV

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Mt 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Jn 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Ga 3:26-27 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Tit 3:5 he saved us ... by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

Eph 5:25-26 ...as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

Rom 6:4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Phil 2:8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

2 Cor 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

It means that our sinful self, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be down through daily repentance; and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever. – Luther on the implications of baptism.

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