

## The Voice of the LORD Is Over the Waters

*Promise: Holy Baptism joins us to the benefits of Christ's death*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; [Luke 3:15-22](#)

(The Baptism of Our Lord, 1/9/22)

*The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over many waters.— Ps 29:3*

**Lead In** – The Psalmist has it right on target. God's voice was over the waters at creation while the Holy Spirit was brooding over the waters. But whether the Psalmist could have imagined it, with Jesus' baptism the Lord's voice, indeed his Word, was over the waters, and gloriously his Word went down into the waters sanctifying a rite introduced by John the Baptist.

### I. Our Lord Completes the Rite Introduced by John

- A. John was direct and clear. He was not the Christ!
- B. John proclaimed a baptism for the forgiveness...
- C. Instead of seeing them as two different baptisms...

### II. There Are Certain Illuminating Events in Jesus' Life

- A. The *Epiphany* has to do with illumination...
- B. Five such events, among others, to pay attention to...
- C. Start and end to Epiphany and season that follows...

### III. The Implications of Baptism For Our Lives

- A. Command to make disciples by baptizing...
- B. Being joined to our Savior in all the important ways...
- C. Living already in newness of life as we await...

**Parting Shot** – Jesus' Baptism was unique. Of him alone does the Father declare him to be the beloved Son, the only begotten. But joined to Christ in Baptism we become adopted sons. Of him alone is the Holy Spirit inseparable from him and the Father from all eternity. But joined to Christ in Baptism we are sent the Holy Spirit to reside with us. Of him alone can the Father be well pleased with all that he did. But joined to Christ in Baptism our sins have been washed away and according to his righteousness the Father is well pleased with us as well. God's Word is over the waters of Baptism, and that life-giving Word comes to us in the Gospel and in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. May we live in thanksgiving and in the gift of new life. Amen.

**Ge 1:1-3** 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, "Let there be light," and there was light.

**Lk 3:3** And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

**Ps 29:4,9** The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. ... The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

**Luther:** "Water by itself is only water, but with the Word of God it is a life-giving water which by grace gives the new birth through the Holy Spirit." – Small Catechism

## Luke 3:15-22 ESV

*John the Baptist Prepares the Way*

<sup>15</sup> As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup> So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. <sup>19</sup> But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup> added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

**Epiphany:** An appearance or manifestation especially of a divine being. An illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure.

**Five Illuminating Events:** 1) The Baptism of our Lord; 2) The Wedding Feast at Cana; 3) In general, the preaching and teaching of the coming Kingdom, especially in parables; 4) The Transfiguration of our Lord; 5) The Institution of Holy Communion.

**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.

**Ro 6:3-4** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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.

**Ro 6:5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

**Ro 6:11** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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