

# ***Adult Bible Discovery- January 10, 2021:***

## **For Starters:**

*God's Word does not prescribe a certain style or location for a baptismal font in a church. How could the style or location of the font communicate what a congregation believes about Baptism?*

## **Study:**

### **Read Luke 3:15-22**

- How does John make it clear that he is not the Christ (Messiah)? (See Luke 3:15-16 & John 3:28-29)
- How are pastors like John the Baptist?
- What did John's Baptism do for those who received it? (See Luke 3:3)
- Jesus was born sinless and never sinned. Why would He, the sinless One, need such a Baptism? (See Matthew 3:14-15)
- What does His Baptism mean for us? (See 2 Corinthians 5:17-21)
- Read Isaiah 42:1. What do we learn from this passage that provides the background for Luke 3:22?
- What is the significance for us of the Spirit's descent upon Jesus in the form of a dove? (See Luke 3:16 and John 3:5)
- Based on the Holy Spirit's name, how do we know what he does?
- How does Christ's Baptism provide insight into the mission of the apostles and their successors in the Church? (See Matthew 28:19-20 & Acts 2:38)
- Read Luke 3:17 again. What does this passage say is part of Jesus's mission? Why is this message unpopular today? Why is it important that we continue to proclaim this aspect of Jesus's work?

## **Reflection:**

Let's face it: we don't think of our Baptism very often. It seems like an event in the past that no longer has no ongoing significance. Yet Luther explains in the Small Catechism that Baptism "works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare." Wow! It does all that? Pretty amazing stuff! We'd do well to think of Baptism often.

In the Daily Prayers section of the Small Catechism, Luther suggests that Christians begin their day with prayer and the remembrance of Baptism. "In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the cross and say: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." In the cleansing flood of Baptism, we are united with Christ's death and resurrection. We receive the benefits of His work on the cross, the forgiveness of sins.

In his flood prayer, which is part of the baptismal rite in Lutheran Service Book, Luther says, "Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin." With this in mind, what could be another way to remember your baptism on a daily basis?

Luther says in the Large Catechism: "When our sins and conscience oppress us, we strengthen ourselves and take comfort and say, 'Nevertheless, I am baptized. And if I am baptized, it is promised to me that I shall be saved and have eternal life, both in soul and body'" (LC IV 44). Baptism is always in the present tense. "I am baptized!" It is a rock solid, unshakeable foundation for us even when everything else in our lives seems unstable. Such a great thing is this Baptism!

If there is someone in your life that you want to share the joy of baptism with but they need some basic information, please share this video with them- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QN34eHUerbQ>

*Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, You sent the Holy Spirit at Jesus's Baptism to announce that He is Your beloved Son. In Baptism, You have made us Your children through the work of the Holy Spirit. Remind us of this wonderful gift often, and help us to be thankful for it. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen!*