

Sunday, January 8, 2023 - Jesus' Baptism

Psalm: Psalm 29

- 3 - The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders.
4 - The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
5 - The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
6 - The LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
7 - The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.
8 - The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
9 - The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
In the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"
10 - The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

When and how have you experienced the power of the voice of the Lord?

What does it mean for you to know that God sits enthroned above the flood as king forever?

Genesis 1: 3 – God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Mark 2: 5, 11 – Jesus to the paralytic – "Your sins are forgiven." "Stand up, take your mat."

Mark 4: 39 – Jesus rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!"

John 8: 11 – Jesus to woman caught in adultery – "Neither do I condemn you; go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

John 11: 43 – "Lazarus, come out!"

Luke 23: 34 – "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Luke 23: 43 – Jesus to repentant thief – "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

- 11 - O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

How does hearing God's voice and experiencing His love give you strength, blessings, and peace?

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

34-38, 42-43 - Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. . . . He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

44-48 – While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So we ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

When are some times when God made it abundantly clear what He wanted you to do?

When are some times when He did not make it abundantly clear?

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

13-15 - Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

Jesus completely obeyed all of the demands of the law and also paid the full penalty for all of humanity's breaking the law.

Galatians 4: 4-5 – born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law

Colossians 2: 14 – erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands; he set this aside nailing it to the cross

16-17 - And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

All three persons of the Trinity are mentioned – God the Son is baptized, God the Holy Spirit descends like a dove, God the Father speaks from heaven

There are only three times when the Gospels record the words of God the Father

Matthew 3: 17 - at Jesus' baptism – "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 17: 5 – at the Transfiguration – "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

John 12: 28 – after some Greeks came to Philip – "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The Father is well pleased with the Son – the Father tells us to listen to the Son – the Father will glorify His Name

Psalms 2: 7 – You are my son; today I have begotten you.

Isaiah 42: 1 – Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen in whom my soul delights.

*Prayer of the Day – proclaimed to be the beloved Son vs. adopted as the beloved Son
Heresy of adoptionism*

How much it must have meant to Jesus – especially during the most difficult times – to know that the Father was well pleased with Him.

Mark 1: 10-11 - Just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3: 21-22 – When Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

John 1: 29, 32, 33 – The next day (John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. The one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'"