

The Baptism of our Lord
Mark 1:9-11/ Creation and Baptism

Rev Mark Duer
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Mark 1:9-11 ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

When the right time came, God's servant, a descendant from Abraham was born and took on flesh, he grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. When the time came for Jesus to begin his ministry, he traveled from the region of Galilee to the Jordan River to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy and to be baptized by John and receive the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus is being baptized by John in the Jordan River all three persons of the Trinity are present. God the Father with his strong voice: "**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**" God the Son who is being baptized by John, and God the Holy Spirit, who was descending in the form of a dove.

In today's text, Jesus was baptized and received the Holy Spirit. Just as when you were baptized, all your sins were washed away and you were clothed with the garment of salvation and covered with the robe of righteousness.

In the very first verses of Scripture, all three persons of the Trinity are present during creation. **Genesis 1:1-3** In the beginning, **God** created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the **Spirit** (the Holy Spirit) of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God **said**, all three persons of the Trinity were present; wait a minute- where's Jesus? "**And God said.**"

John chapter 1 says: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Through him all things were created, that has been created. The account of Genesis belongs with today's gospel because all three persons of the Trinity are present.

When God created the world, he created it out of nothing, he spoke his Word and things came into being: Let there be light, let there be stars in the sky, let there be fish in the sea, let there be a mountain.

Through God's powerful Word he brought creation into existence, not from something that already existed, but from absolutely nothing.

God creates out of nothing; God speaks and things come into being that were not. In baptism, God creates faith by the power of his Word attached to water, do you see the connection? God creates out of nothing.

When God speaks through one of his servants he creates. He speaks through the pastor's lips: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. From the power of God's Word something that didn't exist is created—faith.

God continues to create out of nothing. God's powerful Word creates—when he created the plants and all living creatures at creation, he spoke his Word: “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. Plants, and trees and all living creatures still multiply and fill the earth today, just as they did in the beginning.

God's Word took and human flesh and blood in the incarnation. Jesus Christ was baptized and received the Holy Spirit. In Jesus baptism he set in motion God's plan of redemption.

After Jesus baptism, he was tempted for 40 days in the wilderness, he overcame all of Satan's temptations. For all the times we failed to stand up to Satan's temptations and we gave in to sin, Jesus overcame them for us, and defeated Satan on the Cross.

That same human suffered and died for me and for you and for all people to redeem us lost and condemned sinners from the fires of hell.

God spoke a powerful Word in Christ and not even death itself could hold that Word down. That Word is alive and that Word by the power of God's Word lives and dwells in you; God's gift of faith—not some abstract faith, but faith in the person and word of Jesus Christ.

When you come into God's house for the Divine Service, God creates, not only in the waters of Holy Baptism, but God creates the forgiveness of sins in you and for you as you hear that powerful Word, as you believe that powerful Word—he drives away your doubt and creates confidence in you.

In the Small Catechism on Baptism, Luther asks: *How can water do such great things?* With the Word of God, it is a baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:5-7 ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

When we were baptized, we were baptized into Jesus and we were made new creations. Just as God created man from the dust of the earth, now he re-creates us through his Son and makes us new creations.

Romans 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.

In Mark 1:15, when Jesus began his ministry, he proclaimed the gospel saying: "**The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.**"

Repent, and Turn from your wickedness and evil desires, and your false idols.

Jesus drives away your fear and gives you a firm foundation to stand upon. Brothers and sisters for all of the times when you doubted God's Words. For all of the times you doubted the power of God's Word.

For all of the times you sinfully thought you knew better than what God's Word clearly teaches—the Word Jesus Christ bled and died-For You.

Today we can rejoice in God's Word. We Rejoice not only in Jesus' baptism, but in your baptism where God claims you as his own, where he adopts you as his children.

Every day remember your baptism, and these words Luther wrote: *What does such baptizing with water indicate?* **It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

As you live each day in the Holy Spirit, go out and share what God has done for you, tell others about the Good News.

2 Timothy 1:8-10 ⁸Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, . . . but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

When God's Words were spoken in your baptism: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, you were given a new identity.

And God said: My beloved Son, my beloved daughter, with you I am well pleased.

Today, and always, you can rejoice in your baptism. In Jesus name. Amen