

JANUARY 11, 2015
BAPTISM OF
THE LORD

taking+ faith home

All life comes from God our Creator.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Genesis 1:1-5	In the beginning
Monday	Job 12:7-10	All life is in God's hand
Tuesday	Job 26:7-14	Job speaks of creation
Wednesday	Job 38:1-18	The Lord speaks of creation
Thursday	Hebrews 1:10-12	He laid the earth's foundations
Friday	Nehemiah 9:1-6	He gives life to everything
Saturday	Psalms 104:24-35	A psalm of creation
Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

God of creation, make us new this day with baptismal grace. Amen.
(Genesis 1:1-5)

Mealtime Prayer:

In the beginning, God made the heavens, earth and sky.
For life and food and daily care, we praise you, Lord Most High!

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you his strength. May the Lord bless you with peace.
Amen. (Psalm 29:11)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is something you have made? What did you use to make it?
- In the beginning God created the heavens and earth from nothing at all (Genesis 1:1-5). Imagine that were you able to travel back in time to that first moment. What do you think you would see, hear, feel?
- Think back on the past week. In what ways have you seen or experienced God's creative power?

DEVOTIONS

On "Baptism of our Lord Sunday," we are invited to remember our own baptisms. In your home devotional times this week, share baptismal details and stories of members of your household. Look at any photos or videos you may have. Look up these verses about Baptism and discuss what they say: Romans 6:4, Galatians 3:27, Titus 3:5-6.

SERVICE

God calls us to help him in taking care of his creation. As an act of community service, take a few plastic bags and walk around your neighborhood picking up litter (remember to wear gloves).

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

At the time of creation, the Spirit of God was "moving over the waters" (Genesis 1:2). The same creative, life-giving Spirit of God was present and active when Jesus was baptized in the waters of the Jordan River (Mark 1:10) and is present and active whenever and wherever people are baptized in the name of Jesus (Mark 1:8, Acts 2:38). Share a ritual of baptismal remembrance. Set out a bowl of water. Say these words in turn to each person:

(Name), you were baptized on (date) at (place). There and then God adopted you as a beloved child and gave you the Holy Spirit. Remember today that you belong to God. Dip a finger into the water and make the sign of the cross on the person's forehead. Then, share this blessing with them: May the Spirit of God move over you and in you, filling you with faith, hope, love and peace. Amen.



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