

JANUARY 8, 2017  
BAPTISM OF OUR  
LORD



*Jesus is declared as God's beloved Son.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Matthew 28:16-20	Baptism in the Triune name
Tuesday	Ezekiel 36:21-28	A new heart and a new spirit
Wednesday	Acts 8:26-40	An Ethiopian is baptized
Thursday	Romans 6:1-11	Baptized into Christ Jesus
Friday	Colossians 2:8-15	Made alive with Christ
Saturday	Psalms 29	The voice of God
Sunday	John 1:29-42	Jesus, the Lamb of God

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Here is my servant! I have made him strong. He is my chosen one; I am pleased with him. I have given him my Spirit, and he will bring justice to the nations. **Isaiah 42:1 (CEV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Spirit of God, come upon us. Help us to hear God's voice and to know God's love. Amen.  
(Matthew 3:16-17)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord, you give good gifts from above. May we eat with thanks and live with love. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

Baptized child of God, may the Holy Spirit come and rest on you. May you know that God is well pleased with you.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Will You Come and  
Follow Me*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- What do you know about your own baptism or recall about a baptism you have seen?
- At his baptism, Jesus hears God's love and approval. How is that important to Jesus' future work?
- How does God's love and approval announced in your baptism guide your life of faith?

### DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 4:1-11.

Immediately after Jesus' baptism, he is led out into the desert to be tempted by the devil. What does the story of Jesus' temptation say about the importance of his baptism? Reflect on or talk about how baptism impacts one's daily life and struggles. Conclude by praying.

*Pray:* Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus' baptism and your naming him as your beloved with whom you are well pleased. Come Holy Spirit, strengthen all your baptized children, and lead us into your world with courage and peace to do your will, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### SERVICE



In Isaiah 42:1-9, God's servant is chosen, loved, and strengthened with God's Spirit to bring justice to the world that includes a gentle strength that brings healing, freedom, and hope to others. Prayerfully reflect on how you can be a servant of God's love to another person. This next week commit to do some act of service as a beloved child of God.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Share in a ritual of baptismal remembrance at mealtime this week. Place a bowl of water in the center of your table. Dip a finger in the water and make the sign of the cross on your own forehead or that of another person. Say these words as you mark the sign of the cross.

**"[Name], you are a beloved child of God marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen."**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)