

## Didache Divine Service

### Session 16

Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

## The Sacrament of Holy Baptism: It's Essence and Benefits

- I. Invocation and Prayer
- II. Hymn: 405 "To Jordan's River Came Our Lord"
- III. Bible Reading: Jesus Is Baptized: Mark 1:1-11

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in <sup>[a]</sup>the Prophets:

"Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,  
Who will prepare Your way before You."

<sup>3</sup> "The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' "

<sup>4</sup> John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance <sup>[b]</sup>for the remission of sins. <sup>5</sup> Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

<sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. <sup>8</sup> I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> It came to pass in those days *that* Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

1. Notice how Mark begins his testimony, "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" — It is both the beginning of the entire eye-witness testimony to the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, but it also introduces the ministry of Holy Baptism
2. What does the word "Gospel" mean?
3. How did John the Baptist prepare for Jesus' coming?
4. What does "a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins" mean? (Note: the word "for" means "because of" or "on account of" or "for the sake of" the forgiveness of sins.

5. What did the people do when they heard John's preaching and came to him for baptism?
6. What does this teach us about the benefit of Baptism?
7. What is Jesus' designated as being with John's reference to the Sandal strap?
8. How does John teach us that the power in Baptism is Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit?
9. What does the phrase, "the heavens were opened" mean? (Literally, "ripped open")
10. Where are the three persons of the Holy Trinity in evidence in this account?
11. Why is Jesus' baptized since He has no sin?
12. Where will Jesus' baptism take Him?

#### **IV. The Small Catechisms : LSB p. 325**

- **What is Baptism?** (Its Essence: Water and the Word)
- **Which is that Word of God?**
  - ✓ The Command: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..."
  - ✓ The WORD: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
- **What benefits does Baptism give?** (Its Benefit: It works forgiveness of sins...)
  - ✓ "Declared righteous for Jesus' sake" or JUSTIFIED by faith in Christ.
- **Which are these words and promises of God?**
  - ✓ Christ, our righteousness, is ALWAYS the object of saving faith:
  - ✓ "Whoever believes [in Christ] and is baptized will be saved..." A wonderful promise.

#### **Bible Verse for Meditation: Acts 2:38-39**

"Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

#### The promise of Baptism:

1. The forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name
2. The gift of the Holy Spirit
3. The promise is for all: "Your children and all who are afar off..."

- V. **Hymn: 601 "All Who Believe and Are Baptized"**
- VI. **Liturgy for Holy Communion** (Peach handout)
- VII. **Hymn to Depart: 603 "We Know that Christ Is Raised"**