

Didache Divine Service

Session 9

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 11, 2023

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

1. Invocation and Prayer
2. Hymn: 865 "Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain"
3. Praying the Primary Texts of the Catechism (handout)

4. Bible Reading: The Baptism of Our Lord—Matthew 3:1-2, 5-6, 13-17

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

⁵ Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him ⁶ and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. ¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

- Jesus is the sinless One; we are the sinful ones. (This explains John's confusion)
- Jesus comes to baptism NOT to have His sins forgiven, but to have the sins of the world imputed to Him (He becomes the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John 1:29)
- We come to Baptism for the forgiveness of our sins and to be declared the children of God for Jesus' sake.
- "To fulfill all righteousness" refers to how Jesus becomes the bearer of sin FOR US to fulfill all righteousness under the Law by dying in our place.
- In the Baptism of Jesus we see the supernatural miracle of our own Baptism: The Father speaks His Word of divine approval upon us for Jesus' sake and declares us to be "beloved" children of God (the status of Jesus' sonship); the Son of God, our righteousness, is the content of the water of Baptism; and the Holy Spirit descends upon us in the form of a white dove—the symbol of peace with God.
- In Holy Baptism the Kingdom of Heaven is opened to us.

5. The Catechism: What IS Baptism and What Benefits does Baptism give? (LSB p. 325)

6. Bible Reading: Naaman Is Washed in the Jordan River—2 Kings 5:1-14

Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, *but* a leper. ² And the Syrians had gone out on^[a] raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She ^[b]waited on Naaman's wife. ³ Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master *were* with the prophet who *is* in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy." ⁴ And *Naaman* went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who *is* from the land of Israel."

⁵ Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand *shekels* of gold, and ten changes of clothing. ⁶ Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, "Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy.

⁷ And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me." ⁸ So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

⁹ Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and *you shall* be clean." ¹¹ But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out *to me*, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' ¹² Are not the ^[c]Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, *if* the prophet had told you *to do* something great, would you not have done *it*? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean?'" ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

- The self-righteous unbelieving nature of Naaman had to be put to death in order for him to receive the blessing of cleansing by water and the word.
- Repentant faith receives what the Word gives in the water.
- This miracle of faith, cleansing, and salvation illustrates that it is the power of the Word that brings about such miracles.

7. The Catechism: How can water do such great things? (LSB p. 325)

8. Hymn: 405 "To Jordan's River Came Our Lord"

9. Holy Communion Liturgy

10. Hymn to Depart: 953 "We All Believe in One True God"