

## “The Small Catechism”

by Martin Luther

**What is baptism?** Baptism is not simply water. Instead, it is water used according to God's command and connected with God's Word.

**What is this Word of God?** As recorded in Matthew 28:19, our Lord Jesus Christ said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

**What gifts or benefits does Baptism grant?** It brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe, as the Word and promise of God declare.

**What is this Word and promise of God?** As recorded in Mark 16:16, our Lord Christ said, "The one who believes and is baptized will be saved, but the one who does not believe will be condemned."

**How can water produce such great effects?** Clearly, the water does not do it, but the Word of God, which is with and alongside the water, and faith, which trusts this word of God in the water. For without the word of God the water is plain water and not a baptism, but with the word of God it is a baptism, that is, a grace-filled water of life and a “bath of the new birth in the Holy Spirit,” as St. Paul says to Titus in chapter three: "through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit is poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This saying is sure."

**A Critical First Step** It is the Church's understanding that baptism is a critical first step in the Christian life of every believer. We believe that baptism brings individuals into the family of God. It forgives our sins and makes us members of God's family. Baptism is the first step on a life-long journey of faith. The faith that begins at baptism must be nurtured and strengthened for a lifetime. This is done through regular worship, fellowship, studying the Scriptures, and service. The Bible reminds us that if this faith is neglected, it may die.

**A Meeting with the Pastor** Pastor Nathan will set up a time to meet to discuss Baptism with you. At this time, the Pastor will describe the Baptism service in the church. This meeting will help you understand the Baptism Service and the promises that you will be asked to make before God and God's people.

**Promises** At the time of your baptism, you will promise to continue in the covenant God makes with you in Holy Baptism, living among God's people. You will promise to hear God's Word and share in the Lord's Supper. You will promise to proclaim the good news of Jesus in word and deed, serving all people in the manner Christ served.

**Sponsors** You will be asked to have Baptismal Sponsors present at your Baptism. Your Sponsors should be Christian people who are willing to support you in caring for your spiritual needs.

**When?** Baptisms normally take place in a Christian worship service before a group of gathered believers. Because Lutherans believe that Holy Baptism brings an individual into the family of God, the church needs to be part of this important event. Except in the case of emergencies, private Baptisms are discouraged at Gethsemane because they tend to disconnect Baptism from the wider life of the Church and its people. As you make plans, know that our Sunday worship occurs at 8:30 and 10:45 am between Labor Day and Memorial Day. During the summer months, we have worship services at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings and at 6:30 pm on Thursday evenings. We prefer to have no more than one baptism per service. All baptisms are entered into the permanent records of this congregation and you will be issued a certificate.

# Holy Baptism For Adults

➤➤ Gethsemane Lutheran Church



Our Mission is to draw all people to Christ, nurture faith, and fulfill our calling to serve.

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# Sacrament of Holy Baptism

## WE GATHER AT THE FONT

P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world. Let us read the words of Jesus together:

**All: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die..."**

**"I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit."**

**"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end the age."**

P: Name, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ? **I do.**

P: Do you intend to continue in the covenant God makes with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's people, to hear his Word and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of Jesus in word and deed, and to serve all people in the manner Christ served? **I do.**

P: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this person in the Christian Faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the Church? **I do.**

P: People of God, do you promise to support Name and pray for them in their new life in Christ? **We do.**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

P: People of God, Do you believe in God the Father?

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## BAPTISM

P: Name, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

P: Let us pray.  
We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Name with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Name, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

## PRESENTATION OF A CANDLE

P: Receive this lighted candle. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

## WELCOME

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.  
**All: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**All: And also with you.**

