



19 Minutes with Luther

Baptism

The Institution of Baptism

First: What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is water used by God's command and connected with God's Word.

Which is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The Blessings of Baptism

Second: What does Baptism do for us?

Baptism works forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

What are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

1. The means by which the Holy Spirit offers and gives God's grace to us is the gospel. The gospel is found in God's Word as well as in two sacred acts called sacraments. The sacraments have three basic characteristics. They (1) were instituted by Christ; (2) use earthly elements connected with God's Word; and (3) offer the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

The two sacraments are _____ and the _____.

2. Jesus instituted Baptism when he commanded, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). To whom did Jesus give the command to baptize (and who, therefore, has the right to baptize)? What earthly element is found in Baptism? What is the Word of God connected with this earthly element? For whom is Baptism intended?

3. Jesus commanded that we baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." According to the following passage, what special comfort and assurance do we receive from being baptized in the name of the triune God?

"You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household" (Ephesians 2:19).

4. According to the following passages, what blessings does God give in Baptism?

- The Knowledge of God
- Law and Gospel
- Introduction to the Law
- 1st Commandment
- 2nd Commandment
- 3rd Commandment
- 4th Commandment
- 5th Commandment
- 6th Commandment
- 7th Commandment
- 8th Commandment
- 9th & 10th Commandments
- The Conclusion
- The Gospel & the Nature of God
- The Apostles' Creed (Faith)
- 1st Article (Creation)
- 1st Article (Preservation)
- 1st Article (Protection)
- 1st Article (The Fall into Sin)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Person)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Office)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Work)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Humiliation)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Exaltation)
- 2nd Article (Christian Life)
- 2nd Article (Saved by Faith)
- 3rd Article (The Holy Spirit)
- 3rd Article (Calls)
- 3rd Article (Enlightens)
- 3rd Article (Sanctifies)
- 3rd Article (Keeps in Faith)
- 3rd Article (Invisible Church)
- 3rd Article (Visible Church)
- 3rd Article (Forgiveness)
- 3rd Article (Eternal Life)
- **Baptism (Part 1)**
- Baptism (Part 2)
- Holy Communion (Part 1)
- Holy Communion (Part 2)
- Keys & Confession (Part 1)
- Keys & Confession (Part 2)
- Keys & Confession (Part 3)
- Introduction to the Lord's Prayer
- The Address
- 1st Petition
- 2nd Petition
- 3rd Petition
- 4th Petition
- 5th Petition
- 6th Petition
- 7th Petition
- The Doxology

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins" (Acts 2:38).

"[God] saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5).

"In [Noah's ark] only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also" (1 Peter 3:20,21).

5. The Bible teaches that all adults need Baptism and are to be instructed before receiving this sacrament. It also teaches that all children are to be baptized. According to the following passages, why do we baptize children?

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them" (Matthew 28:19).

"Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:5).

"If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matthew 18:6).

6. Discuss the following:

The duties of sponsors

The appropriate period to wait before baptizing a child

The administration of the sacrament by the pastor and by laypeople

Luther said:

"The way to regard and use Baptism rightly is to draw strength and comfort from it when our sins or consciences trouble us. We then must say, 'See here, I am baptized. And since I am baptized, I have the assurance that I shall be saved in soul and body and have eternal life.'" (Tappert, p. 442.)

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we have been baptized. We are your children. By your grace and power, we belong to you. Help us to live each day in the joy of our baptisms and to the glory of you, our Father. In Jesus' name we ask this. Amen.

At home

- Memorize the Institution of Baptism and the Blessings of Baptism
- Locate and read your baptismal certificate.

Helps

(1) The two sacraments are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. (2) Jesus commanded his disciples to baptize. Therefore, all Christians have the right to administer the sacrament. The two necessary things in the sacrament are the earthly element, water, and God's Word: "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Jesus commanded that "all nations," that is, all people, be baptized. (3) Baptism in the name of the triune God assures us that we have become members of God's family. (4) In Baptism, God gives us the blessings of the forgiveness of sins, a new birth (rebirth), and eternal salvation. (5) We baptize children because they are included in Jesus' command to baptize "all nations," because they are sinful from birth and need the forgiveness Baptism offers, and because they too can believe in Jesus as their Savior. (6) Having sponsors is not commanded by God but is a fine custom. We ask sponsors to serve as witnesses to the baptism, to pray for the child and to help with the child's spiritual training. Sponsors, then, should believe as the parents do. Since children by nature are sinful and under the wrath of God, we will want to have them baptized and receive the blessings God offers in Baptism as quickly as possible. Although God has given the right to administer the Sacrament of Holy Baptism to all members of the church, congregations will normally, for the sake of good order, ask their pastors to administer this sacrament. In the case of emergencies, however, when a pastor is not present, any Christian may baptize.