

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:1–9

- ¹ Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul
delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the
nations.
- ² He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
- ³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not
quench;
he will faithfully bring forth
justice.
- ⁴ He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the
earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.
- ⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and
stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what
comes from it,
who gives breath to the people on it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
- ⁶ “I am the LORD; I have called you in
righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep
you;
I will give you as a covenant for the
people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the
dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in
darkness.
- ⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.
- ⁹ Behold, the former things have come
to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them.”

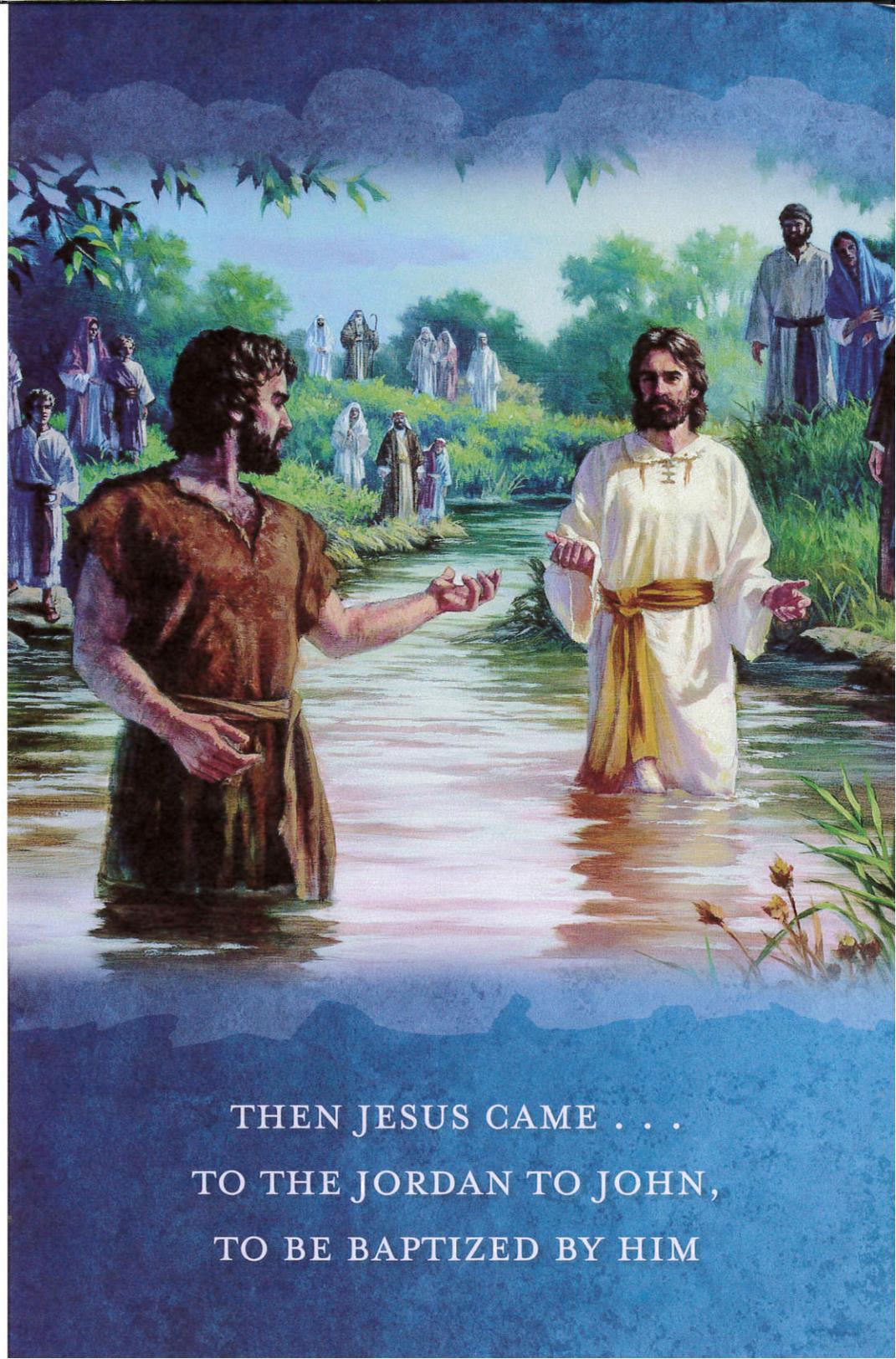
Epistle: Romans 6:1–11

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:13–17

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”



THEN JESUS CAME . . .
TO THE JORDAN TO JOHN,
TO BE BAPTIZED BY HIM



About the Cover: It seems natural that John would have attempted to prevent Jesus from being baptized. What need does the spotless, sinless Lamb of God have in a Baptism for the repentance of sins? However, Jesus insists upon submerging Himself with sinners in this Baptism to fulfill all righteousness. The righteousness of God is found in His mercy for poor sinners as He emerged from the watery grave into new life and took those sins all the way to the cross.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org
Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org
https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo

**HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

Rev. Timothy Nerud **Pastor**
309-949-2516 (Office), 612-940-8138 (Cell), 309-949-2517 (Home)

Elder: Carl Freeman

Organist: Corinne Luckinbill

Greeter: Janet Bertsons

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

Today's Readings: Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9
Epistle: Romans 6:1-11
Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

WE PRAY: Blessed Trinity, who has given us so much, strengthen us who in Baptism have committed ourselves to You, that we, following Your example, empty ourselves in service to all who are in need of our help; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

IF YOU DESIRE, a visit or call from Pastor Nerud, please contact the church office (309-949-2516).

OFFICE HOURS

Terri's hours (Monday—Friday) 8 am—12 pm
Pastor's hours (Monday, Pastor's day off)
(Tuesday) 9 am—12 pm
(Thursday) 9 am—12 pm & 1 pm—4 pm
(Wednesday & Friday) please call ahead.

STREAM SERVICES <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and on the website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org.

All bulletin announcements need to be in the Office by Wednesday mornings.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Sunday school—NA Adult Bible Class—NA Worship—53

OFFERING

Offering last Sunday \$2,945.00
Weekly 2022 Budget income needed \$4,084.71

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

Today	8:45 am	SS/ Adult & Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship
		Installation of 2023 Church Council
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Council meeting
Wednesday	5:00 pm	Confirmation class
Next Sunday	8:45 am	SS/ Adult & Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Youth meeting

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalms 122:1

MATTHEW 3:15 – "But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.'" The reason God sent His Son into the world is to fulfill all righteousness for us, to do what we could not do. Here, Jesus plunges Himself into our sins and soaks them up in His Baptism, so that in our Baptism we might be cleansed and renewed. The whole of Jesus' life, everything He did and said, was one great offering to the Father in our stead to fulfill all righteousness for us.

ATTENDANCE PADS are at the end of each pew. Each family (members and guests) should sign using only **ONE** box per household, naming all family members present in the one box. **EVERYONE** needs to indicate their intention to receive Holy Communion on a Communion Sunday. Return pad to the right end of your pew. Thanks for your help with this.

INSTALLATION OF 2023 COUNCIL OFFICERS will be during the service this morning. May our Lord give them all wisdom and strength to serve this congregation according to His will.

We sincerely thank those who served the past two years and are going out of their office. You have been a blessing to this congregation. May God guide you to the next area of service planned for you.

Some boards will be meeting after service TODAY to plan for 2023. If you are a new Council member, please check with others on your board to see if you are meeting.

DOLLARS FOR MISSION—Can your small gift of a dollar each week really make a difference? A 5-minute video will be shown this morning after the worship service. This video will explain the new mission project St. John's Evangelism/Stewardship is hosting throughout the year 2023. We pray everyone will

gladly participate by giving one dollar EACH week and see the mighty work these dollars will do to spread God's Gospel message around the world.

2023 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES are in your mailboxes, if you have not already picked them up. You will also find the January newsletter and new Membership Directory. If you did not receive these items or need extras, please contact the office.

CHRISTIAN LIVING—Matthew 3:13-17: Jesus came to fully carry out the will of His Father. This included being baptized to fulfill all righteousness and take our place under the Holy Law of God. He lived in perfect obedience to that Law in our place, so that we might be the redeemed children of God who now have God's Good News to share with others who need to hear it. Don't deprive your friends, co-workers, or neighbors of the blessing of hearing from God, "You are Mine! By the grace of God, you walk now in the newness of life in Christ!" God makes all things new: the new day, the new start, and the grace that makes things new, and this is exactly the news you can't just get anywhere. This News is found only in Christ - so share it boldly!

THANK YOU —to those who donated 2023 calendars for Hillcrest residents. We gathered 57 of them.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Give thanks as you pray:

MISSION—*Pray that we would be effective in reaching out to people of different ethnicities who are living in our communities.* Pray that the Lord would use us as His instruments to make the LCMNS a reflection of the Church Triumphant.

ST JOHN'S—**Mr. Jacob Miller**—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and the righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Jake and ask Your blessings upon him.

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

Elizabeth Bjork	Betty Firch	Drew Schillinger
Paula Chapa	Arlyn Helke	Carolyn Wildermuth
Jim Dahl	Lynne Johnson	Marilyn Woods
Lois Esterlein	Jessica Johnson	Carter Eastburn

Anthony/Sami Sedotto (2022/2023 Adopted seminary student)

Andrew/Sarah Hill & family (2022/23 seminary student)

Don Eggers (son of friend of Marilyn Woods)

Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)

Marilyn Potts (wife of Cal Potts, former St. John Laborer for Christ)

Rev. Justin Kane (son of Sandra Kane)

Laurie Sanford (sister of Jan Dahl)

Susan Mayden (sister of Michele Barry)

Russ Klavon (brother of Carolyn Werner)

MILITARY—We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

Mandy/Richard Davila (daughter/son-in-law of Linda Aper)

Luke/Nicole Thompson (son/daughter-in-law of John/Kindra Thompson)

Ken Willeford (husband of Alicia Willeford)

Karl Flynn (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)

Zachary/Tiffany Gardner (nephew/wife of Lois Esterlein)

Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers)

Brittany Loenser (daughter of Gabe Loenser)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“When an abortion is performed, we proclaim that we know better than God. We disregard His wisdom, for He taught us that we should never kill innocent human beings. We proclaim that we do not want or need a gift from God. And in doing so, we seek to make ourselves more powerful than God. We seek to make ourselves God.” *Archbishop Samuel Aquila – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

NOW OPEN, SWADDLING CLOTHES @ Concordia Lutheran Church, Geneseo. This is a mission of Concordia, created as a place for moms and moms-to-be find some help gathering all the items needed for a new bundle of joy. (We are also here to help dads, custodial grandparents, and foster parents). Our free shopping room is open every 2nd Thursday from 4-7 pm and every 4th Saturday from 9 am-noon. Tell anyone who maybe in need of this help. Concordia is at 316 S. Oakwood Ave, Geneseo. For more information call, 309-944-3993 or visit www.swaddlingclothes.org.

CAMP CILCA is already planning for next season's summer camps. Early Bird registration is underway. Brochures are in the mailbox of families with children. Additional brochures can be found on the counter between the mailboxes. Scholarships are available from both St. John's and Camp CILCA.

LCMS MEN'S/WOMEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE—Join us for fun and fellowship. All skill levels are welcome. We begin Monday, January 9th @ 6 pm and the following 11 weeks (new short season) @ Highland Park Bowl, 4204 Avenue of the Cities, Moline. Direct questions, call or text, Jim Pearson @ 563-293-6456 or Michael Wagner @ 309-453-7206. We will have a great time.

ROCK ISLAND YOUTH GROUP—Please join us for a Movie Night on Sunday, January 15th at Immanuel in Rock Island from 6-8:30 p.m. We will start the evening with a short devotion followed by the movie "The Princess Bride". Please bring your own drinks. Popcorn and cotton candy will be provided. Seating will be provided in the gymnasium, however feel free to bring your sleeping bag and a pillow if you wish. We look forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions, please contact me at 309-714-5491.



WANTED:
Chili Cooks



CHILI COOK OFF
FUNDRAISER

for the Food Pantry at
St. John's Lutheran Church
1450 30th Ave, East Moline

Sunday, February 26, 2023

Set-up 4:00pm

Doors Open 5:00pm



WANTED:
Chili Cooks



CHILI COOK OFF
FUNDRAISER

for the Food Pantry at
St. John's Lutheran Church
1450 30th Ave, East Moline

Sunday, February 26, 2023

Set-up 4:00pm

Doors Open 5:00pm

Do you have a great chili recipe that everyone loves? If so, we need you to help us raise funds for the food pantry. Just like everyone else, our costs have gone up as well



How to help...

- Register your pot by Jan 30:
 - 1) Sign up on the library counter,
 - 2) call St. Johns (309-792-0755), or
 - 3) email carrie.homann@gmail.com
- Make a fresh, from scratch pot of chili (at least 4 qts).
- Bring your chili in a crockpot with a ladle or serving spoon to St John's at 4pm on Sun., Feb 26.
 - Style of chili can be traditional red, white chili, or vegetarian.
 - Feel free to name your chili, decorate your table and dress the part! Have fun with this!
- St. John's will provide a table with electricity, serving gloves, cups, spoons, napkins, toppings (cheese, sour cream, oyster crackers, etc), & beverages.
- There will be a Judges Choice and People's Choice.
 - Judges are yet to be determined. If you know of a chili-loving pastor or vicar, let us know!
 - Fun prizes included!
- We will also be in need of baked goods (corn bread & sweets). Let us know if you can donate those items.

Do you have a great chili recipe that everyone loves? If so, we need you to help us raise funds for the food pantry. Just like everyone else, our costs have gone up as well



How to help...

- Register your pot by Jan 30:
 - 1) Sign up on the library counter,
 - 2) call St. Johns (309-792-0755), or
 - 3) email carrie.homann@gmail.com
- Make a fresh, from scratch pot of chili (at least 4 qts).
- Bring your chili in a crockpot with a ladle or serving spoon to St John's at 4pm on Sun., Feb 26.
 - Style of chili can be traditional red, white chili, or vegetarian.
 - Feel free to name your chili, decorate your table and dress the part! Have fun with this!
- St. John's will provide a table with electricity, serving gloves, cups, spoons, napkins, toppings (cheese, sour cream, oyster crackers, etc), & beverages.
- There will be a Judges Choice and People's Choice.
 - Judges are yet to be determined. If you know of a chili-loving pastor or vicar, let us know!
 - Fun prizes included!
- We will also be in need of baked goods (corn bread & sweets). Let us know if you can donate those items.

The Baptism of Our Lord (First Sunday after the Epiphany)

January 8, 2023

Text: Matthew 3:13-17 (Gospel Reading)

Other Texts: Isaiah 42:1-9 (Old Testament); Romans 6:1-11 (Epistle)

“The Great Exchange”

Grace, mercy, and peace be yours from God our Father through faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The season of Epiphany, which is Greek for “manifestation,” quite rightly follows the Christmas season as both highlight the incarnation of the Son of God. Christmas does so with its emphasis on the human nature of Christ; that the eternal Word¹ condescends to enter the Virgin Mary’s womb and become a true man in every way except for sin.² On the flip-side, Epiphany highlights the incarnation by its emphasis on Jesus’ divine nature, how His divinity manifests.

The season begins on January 6th with the Festival of the Epiphany, with Jesus’ divine nature revealed by the miraculous star that led the Magi to the little boy whom they worship as the King of the Jews, offering Him their costly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.³ And the season continues with reading various accounts in which the deity of Christ is manifested, such as His miracles, His teaching with divine authority, and the testimonies of others concerning Him, all of which culminate on the last Sunday of the season when we witness His divine nature literally radiating out of Him in glorious heavenly light at His transfiguration.

And so this morning, the First Sunday after the Epiphany, we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord. And what an epiphany it is as all three Persons of the Most Blessed and Holy Trinity manifest, a true vision of God! For at His baptism Jesus, standing in the Jordan River, is declared to be the Son of God by none other than the God the Father Himself, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,”⁴ even as God the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, descends upon the incarnate Son, anointing Him as our Prophet, Priest, and King supreme.⁵

In addition to the revelation of the Trinity as well as the divine nature of Jesus being manifested by His Father’s testimony concerning Him, our Lord’s Baptism also manifests another glorious truth. The sainted Dr. Luther stated,

That is the mystery which is rich in divine grace to sinners: wherein by a wonderful exchange our sins are no longer ours but Christ’s and the righteousness of Christ not Christ’s but ours. He has emptied himself of His righteousness that He might clothe us with it and fill us with it. And He has taken our evils upon Himself that He might deliver us from them. ...In the same manner as He grieved and suffered in our sins, and was confounded in it, in the same manner we rejoice and glory in His righteousness.”⁶

This, what we might call the “Great Exchange,” is really what Christ Jesus means for us. He gives us what is His even as He takes upon Himself that which is ours. This is the reality of every act of His life, yet there is an event when this is first made obvious. And that is when our dear Lord is baptized in the Jordan River.

A few months into John the Baptist's ministry Jesus intentionally seeks out John. It is interesting to consider that at this time John is the big name on the scene, with crowds flocking to him, many loyal disciples following him, and some naysayers speaking against him as well. But Jesus is relatively unknown as He comes down from Nazareth in Galilee. So here we see an example of our Lord in His state of humiliation, as He humbly seeks John to be baptized by him.

Of course, while Jesus is relatively unknown to the crowds, John, who once leaped for joy in his mother Elizabeth's womb when Jesus, in Mary's womb, came near, is aware of Him. This is most likely by an inner revelation of the Holy Spirit as John was called to be a prophet and, more than a prophet, the forerunner of the Christ.⁷ So quite understandably, John tries to prevent Jesus being baptized. "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"⁸

And he was right! John recognized Jesus' sinlessness and his own sinfulness. This is not to deny the exemplary life that John lived—a life of simplicity, severity, a life of denial under what was basically a lifelong Nazirite vow. He lived in the wilderness, dressed in a garment of camel's hair with a leather belt, and ate locusts and wild honey, thereby turning away from at least most of the joys of life. And of course I don't mean sinful ones, for we are all to be denying ourselves such; there is no option there. No, due to his divine calling he was denied even those things that are otherwise free, blessings that most people are normally allowed to enjoy in moderation. Yet, this life of deprivation did not make him righteous.

But John was not just called to be austere, but a prophet of the Most High. And he was, being a faithful preacher of the Word. He rightly denounced sin, condemning the wickedness of Herod and his adultery, condemning the hypocrisy of the religious leaders, and the sins of the people. Yet he also proclaimed grace, administering a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins to all who repented, and called them to bear the fruits of repentance, guiding them in their new life. But not even his faithfulness in his ministry made him righteous. For the righteousness of God was a righteousness that John knew that he, like all people, fell short of. John knew he needed God's grace too if he was to escape God's fiery judgment, even as he knew that Jesus not only did not need God's grace, but was in fact the One who brings it; embodies it!

And *that*, dear Christians, is why Jesus had come to be baptized! "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."⁹ Jesus doesn't disagree with John's assessment. He *doesn't* need to be baptized for Himself. Truly, John *does* need Him. *But so does everyone else.* For if John the Baptist could not achieve the righteousness of God, then who can? And the answer is no one. All of us sin in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We do that which we should not, and we fail to do that which we should. And when we do, we fail to do it out of pure holy love for God and the neighbor. Like John, all people, each of us included, deserve God's wrath. So Jesus, at the Jordan, in a beautiful way, shows us the wonderful exchange between Him and sinners that He brings. By receiving the baptism of sinners He takes His place in the trenches with us and in earnest walks the path of the Great Exchange. For He is not just *with* us in this sin-ridden world of sorrow and death, He is with us *as our substitute*.

Yes Jesus walked the path of the Great Exchange. His whole life of perfect faithfulness and obedience to His Father, *lived for us*. And that path took Him into the valley of the shadow of death, right into death's gullet as He died on the cross. Died as the sinless one, for He had no sin. Died as the greatest, most wicked of sinners, for He bore the sins of all people upon Himself.

What an exchange! The sinless Son of God hangs on the cross, beaten and bloody, for all to mock, both then and still today; doing such as we sinners for whom He died live all too comfortably, too often afraid that we might suffer if we claim Him, follow Him. The Father's beloved Son, forsaken, that we rebels who forsook Him might be reclaimed, returned to Him as precious sons and daughters. And then "It is finished"—the Great Exchange is complete. St. Paul writes, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."¹⁰ It is as Jeremiah prophesied, "This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness."¹¹ Christ Jesus, sinless man and holy God, He alone is our righteousness, for only His divine, holy righteousness avails before the throne of judgment.

Dear Christians, just as that the Great Exchange was really set in motion when our Lord was baptized, so it is that we have received the benefits and blessings of that exchange in our own baptism. For the same Spirit who descended upon Jesus at His baptism has descended upon us at our own. The Holy Spirit has given you the forgiveness of sins, for He unites the water of Baptism to the holy blood of Christ which cleanses you from all sins. And know that for certain, *that you are forgiven*. That though your sins are scarlet, you are white as wool, for what sin can withstand the blood of God's incarnate Son? Truly, *there is no sin*, no matter how dark or grave it is, no number of sins, no matter how terrible and many, none are greater than the suffering and death of God! The Lawgiver and Judge has died in your place to save you!

You are forgiven. And you are also made a new creation, "by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit."¹² The new life you were born into in your baptism is the life you live now and every day. Of course, it is not a sin-free life yet. But neither is it a life of slavery to sin. Sin is present, but it does not reign, that is, rule you. You have been raised to a new life in which the Holy Spirit enlightens you through the Word to know God's will, what is right and what is wrong, and so He empowers you to do that which is right and avoid that which is wrong.

Yes, we shall need to keep repenting, And yes, at times even over the same sins much to our shame. Weakness still adheres to us. But sin will not master us! In God's grace and by His Spirit, we shall resist the devil's temptations, the lies of this world, and the cravings of our sinful nature even as we struggle to grow in holiness and good works! For in our Baptism we have been united to Christ, dying with Him to sin and rising with Him unto righteousness. John's faithfulness in his ministry and life could never make him righteous, but being righteous through faith in Christ Jesus he was then able to do many righteous works well-pleasing to God. And so you who are righteous in Christ can do righteous works, living in faith and love wherever God has called you.

You are righteous because Jesus fulfilled all righteousness for you. In the Great Exchange, He took your sins from you, and gave you His perfect righteousness in return. This new life, begun in your baptism, is made evident as you grow in faith and good works, and also in the hope of salvation. For your baptism into Christ will not be complete until your body and soul live forever in the new heavens and earth since Christ Jesus has taken your death, and given you His resurrected life. That is the Great Exchange! Praise Christ who has done it! And rejoice in your baptism where you have received it! In Jesus' holy and precious name. Amen!

¹ John 1:1-3, 14.

² Hebrews 4:15.

³ See Matthew 2:1-12.

⁴ Matthew 3:17. All quotes are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV)* unless otherwise noted.

⁵ “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” *Lutheran Service Book* 394:2. This is a wonderful Epiphany hymn proclaiming many events in which Jesus is “God in man made manifest,” even as it urges us to eagerly look forward to His great epiphany on the Last Day.

⁶ Martin Luther, *Werke* [Weimar, 1883], 5:608.

⁷ Matthew 11:9-11.

⁸ Matthew 3:14.

⁹ Matthew 3:15.

¹⁰ 2 Corinthians 5:21.

¹¹ Jeremiah 23:6. *The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV)*. Many translations, including the ESV, say “The LORD is our righteousness.” While that is true, the EHV gives a more literal translation, which clearly shows this prophecy is fulfilled in Christ Jesus, who is God in human flesh, and is our righteousness by giving us His perfect holiness even as He takes our sins away.

¹² Titus 3:15.

The Baptism of Our Lord (A)

8 January 2023

Presentation of the Offering

Lord Jesus, You were baptized to fulfill all righteousness for us so that we might be righteous in You. Being baptized into Your name and receiving forgiveness of sins and eternal life, grant us, Your holy people, to readily and gladly bring our offerings unto You that Your saving Gospel and Christian charity may go forth unto the glory of Your saving name. Amen.

Prayer of the Church—Responsive Form

Heavenly Father, Your Son fulfilled all righteousness and submitted to Baptism with sinners in the Jordan. Well-pleased, You opened the heavens for us and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. As You have joined us to Christ's death and resurrection by Holy Baptism and given us Your Spirit, strengthen our hearts and open our ears to hear Your Holy Word and rejoice that You have made us Your beloved children in Him. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, as You have opened heaven to Your Church through Holy Baptism, give her faithful teachers to proclaim Your Son, Jesus Christ, and all that accords with godliness, that many would repent of their sins and join Him in His kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give You thanks for the gift of family. Bless all parents, especially mothers, that they would joyfully acknowledge Your gifts of spouse, children and home. Be near to the elderly, the widowed and the orphaned. Show forth Your grace to them, that they would not feel alone. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, Your Son, Jesus, is the Christ and the true King of this world. Grant great humility to the rulers of the nations that they would submit to the preaching of His Holy Word for the sake of their own souls and for the good of Your holy people. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, have compassion on Your creation. Deliver from danger all who are threatened by natural disaster, dangerous weather, pestilence, flood or famine. Provide all that is needed for this body and life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, You sent Your Son as the Servant who would preserve the bruised reed and the faintly burning wick. Hear us on behalf of those in need of healing and deliverance, including Elizabeth, Bruce, Debbie, Jim, Carter, Don, Lois, Betty, Arlyn, Jessica, Lynne, Justin, Russ, Jodi, Susan, Marilyn, Laurie, Drew, Carolyn, and Marilyn. Provide healing, restoration and justice according to Your good and gracious will, and grant that we would always rejoice in Your Son's everlasting faithfulness toward us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, remember Jacob Miller. Bless him in body and soul with all things needful for this life and eternity. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, You have called Your Church from every tribe and nation. Grant that Your people throughout the world would rejoice in the death and resurrection of Christ and live as those who have died and risen with Him in Holy Baptism; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Collect for the Word