



EPISTLE: Acts 10:34-38

34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism  
35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. 36 You know the  
message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ,  
who is Lord of all. 37 You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee  
after the baptism that John preached— 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy  
Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the  
power of the devil, because God was with him.

**HYMN: #301 "He That Believes and is Baptized"**

**SERMON: Matthew 3:13-17 "What's Happening in Baptism?"**

*(A sermon outline with the Scripture reading is printed in the bulletin to aid your meditation  
on God's Word)*

**WE CONFESS THE TRUE CHRISTIAN FAITH:**

P. Who instituted Holy Baptism?

C. GOD HIMSELF INSTITUTED BAPTISM, FOR OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
COMMANDED HIS CHURCH TO BAPTIZE ALL NATIONS.

P. What does it mean to baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy  
Spirit?"

C. IT MEANS THAT IN BAPTISM, GOD, THE HOLY TRINITY, RECEIVES ME INTO  
COMMUNION OR FELLOWSHIP WITH HIMSELF.

P. Who is to baptize?

C. NORMALLY THE CALLED MINISTERS OF CHRIST ARE TO BAPTIZE, BUT IN  
CASES OF EMERGENCY AND WHEN NO PASTOR IS AVAILABLE, ANY  
CHRISTIAN SHOULD BAPTIZE.

P. Who is to be baptized?

C. "ALL NATIONS" ARE TO BE BAPTIZED, THAT IS, ALL PEOPLE, YOUNG AND  
OLD.

P. What distinction is to be made in baptizing?

C. THOSE WHO CAN RECEIVE INSTRUCTION ARE TO BE BAPTIZED AFTER THEY  
HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED IN THE MAIN ARTICLES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.  
LITTLE CHILDREN SHOULD BE BAPTIZED WHEN THEY ARE BROUGHT TO  
BAPTISM BY THOSE WHO HAVE AUTHORITY OVER THEM.

P. Why are babies to be baptized?

C. BABIES ARE TO BE BAPTIZED BECAUSE THEY ARE INCLUDED IN THE WORDS  
"ALL NATIONS"; JESUS ESPECIALLY INVITES LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME TO  
HIM; AS SINNERS, BABIES NEED WHAT BAPTISM OFFERS; AND BABIES ALSO  
ARE ABLE TO HAVE FAITH.

P. Why does the church encourage the use of sponsors at Baptisms?

C. SPONSORS WITNESS THAT THOSE WHO RECEIVE THIS SACRAMENT HAVE  
BEEN PROPERLY BAPTIZED. THEY ALSO PRAY FOR THEM AND IN THE CASE  
OF CHILDREN, HELP WITH THEIR CHRISTIAN UPBRINGING, ESPECIALLY IF  
THEY SHOULD LOSE THEIR PARENTS.

**OFFERTORY:** *(Sung, TLH p. 12)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me. Cast me not away from  
Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy  
salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

**THE OFFERING + RITE OF FELLOWSHIP**

*(Please sign book at end of pew.)*

*Solo: "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"* Mark Tredray

PRAYERS

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BLESSING:**

P. As Almighty God sent forth His Son from the waters of His baptism, filled with the Spirit  
for service,

C. SO HE SENDS US HIS HOLY PEOPLE, FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT FOR SERVICE  
AS WELL.

P. May we shine as the Lord's light to the nations,

C. IN THE STRONG NAME OF JESUS OUR BAPTIZED LORD.

P. And the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the  
Holy Spirit be with us all.

C. AMEN.

**SONG: "Song for the Nations" (Mt 28:19)**

*(Therefore 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)*

1. May we be a shining light to the nations, a shining light to the peoples of the earth; Til the whole world sees the glory of your name. May Your pure light shine through us.
2. May we bring a word of hope to the nations, a word of life to the peoples of the earth; Til the whole world knows there's salvation through Your name. May Your mercy flow thorough us.
3. May we be a healing balm to the nations, a healing balm to the peoples of the earth; Til the whole world knows the power of Your name. May Your healing flow through us.
4. May we sing a song of joy to the nations, a song of praise to the peoples of the earth; Till the whole world rings with the praises of Your name. May Your song be sung through us.
5. May your kingdom come to the nations, Your will be done to the peoples of the earth; Til the whole world knows that Jesus Christ is Lord, May Your kingdom come in us.

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**SILENT PRAYER + ANNOUNCEMENTS + POSTLUDE**

**PRAISE BAND SCHEDULE FOR MONTH OF JANUARY:**

January 13<sup>th</sup> and January 27<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 Service

**Matthew 3:13-17**

**"What's Happening in Baptism?"**

*13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

1. What are two reasons people struggle with baptism?
  - A.
  - B.
2. The word "baptize" means \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What makes a baptism different from an ordinary shower or bath?
4. Why is it dangerous to reject baptism?
5. Who is the one really at work in baptism?
6. What was God the Father doing when Jesus was baptized?
7. What is God doing for us when we are baptized in his name?
8. To whom does God hold out the blessings of baptism?
9. How should our baptism make us feel? Why?