

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. (v3)

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, creator of light & giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, & transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions & came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, & they spoke in tongues & prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How does this story connect with the earlier stories about in Acts Baptism? *See 2:14-16, 37-42, 8:12-17, 10:34-48*
2. Review *Ephesians 4:1--5:20* to see what St. Paul taught the Ephesians (vv4-5 above) about Holy Baptism. What stands out to you? What challenges & encourages you? *See also Small Catechism: Baptism <available bookofconcord.org>*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. How does the fact that you can't baptize yourself emphasize that it's God's gift to you, his decision to choose & adopt you? *See Romans 1:16, 3:10-18, 5:6-9, 10:14; Ephesians 1:5, 13, 2:5, 8-9; see also Romans 6:3-5, 8:12-17*
4. Review the lists of "spiritual fruit/virtues" in the New Testament. How has each one (except speaking in tongues of unknown/unknowable languages) present in your life? Which are the strongest/weakest, most/least used in your everyday life? *See Romans 5:1-5; 1 Corinthians 13:13; Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 3:12-17, 2 Corinthians 6:6-7; James 3:17-18; See also Matthew 5:1-12*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Read vv8-10; how do you & your congregation show & tell your neighbors about the Word of the Lord & the Kingdom of God so that "all the residents" hear it? How do you evaluate your role in this ministry? Which of your neighbors, at home & work, isn't hearing from you?
6. Reflect on the parental promise in the Baptismal Rite (LBW p121; cf. ELW p228) to: bring the child to worship services, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the 10 Commandments, the Holy Scriptures, & Christian doctrine so that they may live godly lives. How were your "elders" good/bad teachers & examples for you early in your faith development? How can you take responsibility for yourself in these matters now? Who & how can you graciously, kindly, & politely help in these matters?

(Lutheran Book of Worship 1978 & Evangelical Lutheran Worship 2006 published by Augsburg Fortress)

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Festival of Our Lord's Baptism

01.10.21

Series: Everyday Holiness

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Who's Holy?

Baptism makes us holy. We have our own gifts manifesting the Spirit in everyday life- if we'd quit worrying about standing out.

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, & they spoke in tongues & prophesied (v6)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved,
with whom I am well pleased." (*Matthew 3:17*)

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Festival of Our Lord's Epiphany

01.03.21

Series: Everyday Holiness

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

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