



**DAILY BIBLE READINGS:**



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

|           |                     |                               |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Matthew 3:13-17     | The baptism of Jesus          |
| Monday    | Matthew 28:16-20    | Baptism in the Triune name    |
| Tuesday   | Ezekiel 36:22-28    | A new heart and a new spirit  |
| Wednesday | Acts 8:26-40        | An Ethiopian is baptized      |
| Thursday  | Romans 6:1-11       | Baptized into Christ Jesus    |
| Friday    | Colossians 2:8-15   | Made alive with Christ        |
| Saturday  | Psalms 89:1-4,19-29 | God anoints David to be a son |
| Sunday    | John 1:29-42        | Jesus, the Lamb of God        |

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:**

Then a voice from heaven said, "This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him." *Matthew 3:17* (CEV)

**SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord God, please give us faith so that we hear you speaking to us. Teach us to listen for your voice. Amen

**Epiphany Mealtime Prayer:**

Christ our light, shine upon us. Refresh us through this meal to reflect your love to others. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

Baptized child of God, may the Holy Spirit come and rest on you. May the Spirit make you strong and bless you with peace. Amen.



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### CARING CONVERSATION:

- What do you know about your own baptism? Share your stories and pictures with one another.
- Is it important to you that you were baptized? Why?

### DEVOTIONS:

Together, recite Martin Luther's words about baptism from his *Small Catechism* (below). Discuss the meaning of these words. Say prayers of thanks for God's gifts to you and others through baptism.

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

*What benefits does God give in Baptism? It brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it, as the words and promise of God declare.*

*What does Baptism mean for daily living? It means that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.*

### SERVICE:

Prepare bookmarks, cards or notes of encouragement to give to the people who have been baptized in the past year (or their households). Express your thankfulness for their membership in God's family through holy baptism.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

When you gather as a household this week, take a few moments to remember your baptism. Place a bowl of water in the center of your table. Have each person dip a finger in the water and sign the mark of the cross on another's forehead. Say these words to one another in turn:

*"Remember and be thankful – you are a baptized child of God, marked with the cross of Christ forever."*



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