

**Daily Bible Readings:**

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.  
Try 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 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	The Lamb of God revealed

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**Scripture Verse for this Week:**

"He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name." Acts 10:43 (NLT)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

**Prayer for the week:**

"Lord God, please give me faith to hear your voice, and the Holy Spirit to sing your praises. Amen." (Matthew 3:17, Acts 10:44-46)

**For Throughout the Day:**

"Lord God, give me your Spirit today, so that I may live faithfully as your baptized child. Amen."

**Mealtime Refrain:**

"The Lord makes his people strong: And he blesses them with peace." (Psalm 29:11)

**A Blessing to Share:**

"May the Lord take hold of your hand and guide you. May he protect you and make you a light to others. Amen." (Isaiah 42:6)

**Epiphany Mealtime Prayer:**

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



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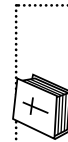
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SCRIPTURE

**Faith Talk:**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What do you know about your own baptism? Share your stories with one another.
- What does it mean to you to be baptized?
- At Jesus' baptism we are told that "heaven was opened" (Matthew 3:16). How does baptism "open heaven" for us?

**Devotional Practices:**

In your family devotional times this week recite Martin Luther's words about baptism from his *Small Catechism*. Discuss the meaning of these words. Share photos and mementos of family baptisms and say prayers of thanks for God's gifts to you and others through baptism.

Leader: What is Baptism?

All: Baptism is not water only, but it is water used together with God's Word and by his command.

Leader: What benefits does God give in Baptism?

All: In Baptism God forgives sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe what he has promised.

Leader: What does Baptism mean for daily living?

All: It means that our sinful self, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be drowned through daily repentance; and that day after day a new self should arise, to live with God in righteousness and purity forever.

**Rituals and Traditions:**

When you gather as family this week take a few moments for baptismal remembrance. Place a bowl of water in the centre of your mealtable. Have each family member dip a finger in the water and sign the mark of the cross on another's forehead. Say these words to one another: "Remember and be thankful – you are a baptized child of God, marked with the cross of Christ forever."

**Service:**

Ask your pastor or church office for the names of those baptized in your church in the past year. Prepare bookmarks, cards or notes of encouragement to give to these people (or their families). Express your thankfulness for their membership in God's family through holy baptism.

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