

Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

January 10, 2016

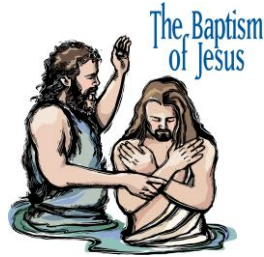
Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalms 29 (3)

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



New Beginnings. *Object: None required, could use a calendar.*

This is an exciting time. It is the beginning of a brand new year. It is a time that we can forget our past mistakes and look forward to new opportunities that lie ahead of us. It is a time of new beginnings.

Jesus experienced times of new beginnings in his life too. One of those times was when he was baptized. There were a couple of very important things that happened when Jesus was baptized. First of all, the Bible tells us that the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove and landed upon him. The second thing was that God spoke and said, "You are my Son. I love you and I am well-pleased with you."

This event marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry here on earth. Up until that time, he had not performed any miracles, but with God's stamp of approval and with the spirit of God upon him, Jesus began to perform great miracles. From this new beginning, many people began to understand that Jesus was truly the Son of God and they began to follow him.

Our own baptism represents a new beginning for us as well. When we are baptized, it shows the world that just as Jesus rose from the dead through the glory of God the Father, we also live a new life in him. (Romans 6:4) God may not always be well-pleased with us, but I think that He looks down with an approving smile when he sees us trying to walk with Jesus.

New beginnings -- God gives us opportunities for new beginnings. Let us make the most of them as we live a new life in Christ through the power of his Holy Spirit.

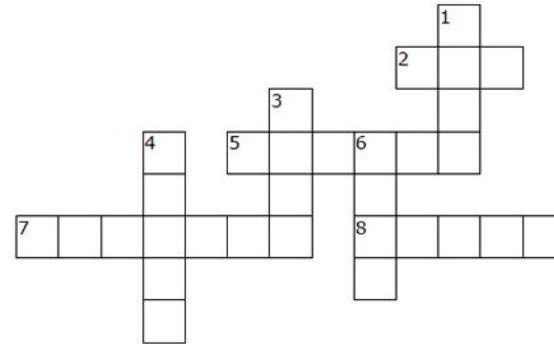
Dear Father, thank you for new beginnings. Help us to make the most of them -- not through our own strength -- but through the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

- Used by permission, sermons4kids



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

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. A male offspring
5. The river where Jesus was baptized
7. To cover briefly completely in water or pour water over a person's head
8. The sound produced by vibration of the human vocal cords

DOWN

1. The name of the man who baptized Jesus
3. A deep feeling of affection for a person
4. Clear, colorless, odorless, tasteless liquid; H₂O
6. A bird often used as a symbol of peace

VOICE	LOVE	WATER	JORDAN
SON	DOVE	BAPTIZE	JOHN

HAND PRINT WREATH: Each child can be given a large white sheet of paper. Children will use paints or finger paints to color their hands and then children can place their hand prints in a circular pattern to form a "wreath". Cut a small hole in the middle of the hand prints where the heel of the hands all meet. Add a ribbon bow at the top! Children can write, NEW BEGINNING, or NEW LIFE IN CHRIST, etc, at the top of the wreath if desired.

HEAVEN AND DOVE ART: Have the children draw a cloud formation and glue on a little bit of cotton for effect. They will then draw a dove coming down to earth and write the words (coming from the clouds), "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased". Luke 3:21-22. If you can find little feathers from a craft store, that could be used in place of the dove.

JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS

MATTHEW 3, MARK 1, LUKE 3

