

JANUARY 12, 2025
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



God calls us by name.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 43:1-7	Restoration and protection
Tuesday	Acts 8:14-17	Receiving the Holy Spirit
Wednesday	Matthew 3:13-17	Jesus' baptism
Thursday	Colossians 3:12-17	New life in Christ
Friday	Ephesians 4:1-6	Unity in the body of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 29	The voice of the Lord
Sunday	John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, strengthen us in our baptismal life and feed us with your power to trust that we are loved by God now and always through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food strengthen us to live in peace and faith through Christ Jesus our Lord, God's Beloved Son. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to know that you are loved.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Change My Heart,
O God*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you felt abandoned or forgotten? What helped you overcome that feeling?
- The Scriptures tell us that you are God's beloved child. How does this message guide you in your daily life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 43:1-7.

The point being made by Isaiah is that we are known by name. We are not forgotten, and we are loved by the creator and redeemer of all of life. From a Nazi concentration camp in World War II, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, pastor, and theologian, wrote a poem entitled *Who Am I?* He explored his inner thoughts and how others might see him from prison and asked the fundamental question, "Who am I?" He gave us the foundational answer: "Whoever I am, Thou knows, O God, I am thine!" The text from Isaiah 43 is a wonderful one to read and use as a prayer during tough times like when we experience a serious illness, loss, or feel held captive to forces that work against us. God's love is eternal, and no life experience will separate us from the saving love of God. Jesus' baptism identifies him as God's unique Son, the Beloved (Luke 3:22). Through Jesus, our lives matter. Through our baptism, we are reminded of what Isaiah 43 passionately confesses: we are God's and never, ever abandoned or forgotten.

Discuss: How does knowing God's love is eternal and that you are never forgotten help during tough times?

Pray: **Gracious God, you turn our sadness into joy; may we remember that you are present in our lives and world to give us hope and peace through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show God's love to someone going through a tough time?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Baptism happens in a community of faith with the support of others. In Acts 8:14-17, Peter and John supported the newly baptized. *"The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit"* (v. 15). Think about your own or someone else's baptism. By whom and in what ways are the baptized supported? Draw water drops on a sheet of paper. In each drop, write a way you can support someone who was recently baptized. Take a moment to think or talk about how and when you will show that person support.

Pray: **Lord God, in our baptism you call us by name. Thank you for your eternal love. Help us to support one another through our actions, words, and prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org