

Blessed Lord, grant that I may hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest Your Holy Word. In Jesus name. Amen.

### **III. The Rite of Baptism**

#### **A. Review: Visible Marks and Signs of God's Promises**

##### **1) The Flood (Genesis 9:8-15)**

- **Marks and Signs:**
  - Rainbow: Sign, mark, and seal of God's promise
  - Flood waters: Anointing (by water)
- **Related to Baptism:** Like the evil people who died in the flood, our sinful flesh is drowned in the waters of Baptism – an exorcism. We rise out of the water marked as forgiven, redeemed, and holy saints, with the promise of new life that is sealed with the resurrected life of our promised Messiah, Jesus Christ.

##### **2) Abraham and the Covenant of Circumcision (Genesis 17:1-14)**

- **Marks and Signs:**
  - Renamed: Name
  - Circumcision: Sign, mark, and seal of God's promise
- **Related to Baptism:** During Baptism, our personal name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, promising us eternal life. God also marks each of us with His name, "The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" to identify us as His own. The mark, sign, and seal of circumcision is in our heart. It is the sacrifice of our sinful desires replaced by the desire to follow the Lord's Way.

##### **3) The Passover (Exodus 12:5-13)**

- **Marks and Signs:**
  - Red door: Anointing (by blood), sign and seal to God's promise
- **Related to Baptism:** A red covered door is a sign of sanctuary. It reminds us of the shedding of Christ's blood, covering us to assuage God's wrath against our sins. Jesus' sacrificial flesh also seals us to the covenant promises (forgiveness of sins, reconciled relationship with God, a perfect - holy and sinless - resurrected body, and life eternal).

##### **4) Idolaters Killed for Abominations in the Temple (Ezekiel 8 - 9:1-6)**

- **Marks and Signs:**
  - Mark on the forehead: mark of the cross
- **Related to Baptism:** In Baptism, the mark upon our head and heart is an invisible mark to us, but God sees it and knows we are His own children named after Him. When we trace the mark of the cross, we too, remember who we are and whose we are, along with all the promises of being a child of God.

##### **5) Jesus Appearing to Thomas (John 14:18-21; 20:23-28)**

- **Marks and Signs:**
  - Nail holes and spear wound: Mark on Jesus's body

- *Jesus appearing*: Sign of the resurrection
- **Related to Baptism**: When we see Jesus' nail and spear marked body, we remember we are joined with him in the covenant promise. We were crucified with Him in Baptism, we watch for His awaited return, and trust in God's promise that we will be resurrected like Jesus Christ to eternal life.

B. The Rite of Holy Baptism (LSB 268-271)

Holy Baptism is the combination of Word (God's promise or testimony) and physical elements (sacraments) mark with God's Word, which are accompanied by visible signs so that you may believe and remember. As we review the Rite of Holy Baptism in the LSB, we will look for God's promises, physical elements marked with God's word, and signs visible to us.

*An appropriate baptismal hymn may be sung. The candidate(s), sponsors, and family gather with the pastor at the entrance of the nave or at the font.*

Hymns: Baptismal Life (LSB 594-605)

- 594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It
- 595 O Blessed Spring
- 596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized
- 597 Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying
- 598 Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters
- 599 O Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near
- 600 Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering
- 601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized
- 602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives
- 603 We Know That Christ Is Raised
- 604 I Bind unto Myself Today
- 605 Father Welcomes

*When candidates are unable to speak for themselves, the sponsors answer the questions on their behalf.*

*Stand*

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19b)

- **Visible sign:** \_\_\_\_\_

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of

Mark our Lord promises, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." And the apostle Peter has written, "Baptism now saves you." (Matthew 28:18b-19; Mark 16:16a; 1 Peter 3:21)

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

- **Promise:**

- **John 3:16-17** \_\_\_\_\_

- **Romans 6:3-5** \_\_\_\_\_

*The pastor addresses each candidate:*

**P:** How are you named?

**R:** Name

- **Physical element marked with God's Word:**

- **Hebrew 12:22-23 22** \_\_\_\_\_

- **Rev 21:27 27** \_\_\_\_\_

*The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of each candidate while saying:*

**P:** Name, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ✝ forehead and upon your ✝ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

- **Visible sign:**

- **Psalm 37:37** \_\_\_\_\_

- **2 Timothy 2:19** \_\_\_\_\_

**P:** Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God,  
according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood,  
yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family,

eight souls in all.

You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea,  
yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground,  
foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism.

Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood  
and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold name(s) according to Your boundless mercy  
and bless him/her/them with true faith by the Holy Spirit,  
that through this saving flood all sin in him/her/them,  
which has been inherited from Adam  
and which he himself / she herself / they themselves has/have committed since,  
would be drowned and die.

Grant that he/she/they be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church,  
being separated from the multitude of unbelievers  
and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope,  
so that, with all believers in Your promise,  
he/she/they would be declared worthy of eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (501)

- **Physical element marked with God's Word:** \_\_\_\_\_

**C: Amen.**

*If the sponsors were previously enrolled, the service continues below with the Holy Gospel.*

**P:** From ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.

*The pastor addresses the sponsors.*

**P:** Is it your intention to serve name of candidate(s) as sponsors in the Christian faith?

**R:** Yes, with the help of God.

**P:** God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them. (Mark 10:13-16 NKJV)

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The pastor places his hands on the head(s) of the candidate(s), and the congregation joins in praying:*

**C: Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive  
those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and  
the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Matthew 6:9-13

*If the baptismal party has stood at the entrance of the nave to this point, they now move to the font. A hymn may be sung during the procession. Then the pastor says:*

**P:** The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even **✝** forevermore. (Psalm 121:8)

- **Visible sign:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Promise:**
  - **2 Corinthians 1:21-22** \_\_\_\_\_

**C: Amen.**

*Sit*

*The pastor addresses the candidate(s) and asks the following questions:*

**P:** Name(s), do you renounce the devil?

**R:** Yes, I renounce him.

**P:** Do you renounce all his works?

**R:** Yes, I renounce them.

**P:** Do you renounce all his ways?

**R:** Yes, I renounce them.

**P:** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

**R:** Yes, I believe.

**P:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?

**R:** Yes, I believe.

**P:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

**R:** Yes, I believe.

- **Visible sign:** Public Renunciation of Satan and Confession of allegiance to Christ

- **Promise:**

- **John 3:33** \_\_\_\_\_

- **Titus 1:2** \_\_\_\_\_

**P:** Name, do you desire to be baptized?

**R:** Yes, I do.

*The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:*

P: Name, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

- **Visible sign:**
  - **Revelation 3:12** \_\_\_\_\_
  
- **Physical elements marked with Word of God:**
  - **Ezekiel 36:24-25** \_\_\_\_\_

*The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:*

P: The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of “water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life  $\dagger$  everlasting.

- **Physical element marked with God’s Word:**
  - **John 3:5** \_\_\_\_\_
  
- **Promise:**
  - **Col 3:3-4** \_\_\_\_\_

C: Amen.

*The pastor may place a white garment on the newly baptized while saying:*

P: Receive this white garment to show that you have been clothed with the robe of Christ’s righteousness that covers all your sin. So shall you stand without fear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the inheritance prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

- **Physical element marked with God’s Word:**
  - **Isaiah 61:10** \_\_\_\_\_
  
- **Promise:**
  - **Revelation 22:14** \_\_\_\_\_

*The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and give it to the newly baptized while saying:*

P: Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet

Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

- **Physical element marked with God’s Word & Promise:**

- **John 8:12** \_\_\_\_\_
- **1 John 1:7** \_\_\_\_\_

*The newly baptized may be welcomed with the following:*

**A:** In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member / members of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir / heirs with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus’ name as our brother(s)/sister(s) in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

- **Promise:**

- **Galatians 3:29** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Ephesians 1:13-14** \_\_\_\_\_

**C: Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.**

*Stand*

**P:** Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted name(s) the new birth in Holy Baptism and made him/her/them a member / members of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir / heirs of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as he/she/they has/have now become Your child/children, You would keep him/her/them in his/her/their baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure he/she/they may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
(503)

**C: Amen.**

- **Promises:**

- **Ezekiel 36:26** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Titus 3:5** \_\_\_\_\_



**P:** Peace ☩ be with you.

**C:** Amen.

- **Promise**
  - **John 14:27** 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
  - **Philippians 4:7** 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*All return to their places.*

C. Summarizing the Rite of Holy Baptism:

Reflect on the discussion about the Rite of Baptism and respond to the following:

- **What is promised to you in Baptism?**
- **List 3 physical elements or visible signs that will remind you of the promise you received in Baptism.**
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_