

Baptism of our Lord 1/12/14
St. Matthew 3:3:13-17 A

“LET IT BE SO NOW, FOR THUS IT IS FITTING FOR US TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS”.

On Jordan’s banks the Baptist cries, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” And by golly, the people listened. The Evangelist tells us, “Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him.” And why shouldn’t they? They heard the Baptist’s preaching and they knew they were sinners. And so, the tax collectors went, the soldiers went, and the butchers, the bakers, and the candlestick makers went. They all went to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

And even Jesus went out to John to be baptized by him in the Jordan River. As you ponder that picture, you have to say to yourself, One of these things is not like the other. There’s something wrong with this picture.

John is preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin. So we can understand why the sinners are there – the tax collectors, the soldiers, and Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan. That makes sense. But Jesus? Jesus is there to receive a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. That doesn’t make a lot of sense. It doesn’t make a lot of sense because we know from our *Small Catechism* that baptism gives the forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation. So, why did Jesus go to John to be baptized? He, by His very nature, had no sin, which needed forgiving. He was already mightier than the devil. He had eternal life. So, why was He baptized? My Dear Christian Friends, the answer to that question is found in the words of Jesus to John, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness”.

I. What kind of person are you? The answer to that question is simple: you are not the person that God demands you to be.

“If anyone is in Christ,” the Bible says, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Cor 5)! You are a new creation in Christ. But, you don’t show it, do you? You don’t think, you don’t speak, and you don’t live as the new creation you are in Christ. We

are filled only with concern for self; we are insincere; we are puffed up in pride; we harbor resentments.

You do not treat your neighbor as God treats you. You expect God to forgive you, but you refuse to forgive our neighbor. You expect Christ to bear your disappointments and heartaches, but you refuse to bear your neighbor's disappointments and heartaches. You expect Christ to carry the cross for you, but you complain and gripe when God places a cross on you, thinking you are too good for a cross.

We are not holy like God. We are sinners. In the death of our sin, it is hard to see ourselves as the sinners we are. But, the Law of God shows us that we are by nature unclean and have justly deserve God's present and eternal punishment. We are not righteous before God.

II. Jesus becomes THE sinner in your place, for you. In Baptism, the Blessed Exchange occurs. Jesus was not baptized to have His sins forgiven; He was baptized so that the sin of the entire world would be washed upon Him. The Bible teaches us this: "For our sake He [God the Father] made Him [Christ, God the Son] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor 5). The Bible tells us that Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1). In order to die for the world's sin, Jesus had to have all the world's sin placed upon Him. That is what happened at His baptism. By stepping into the Jordan, Jesus was taking your sin, and my sin, and the sin of the entire world upon Himself. In the Jordan waters, Jesus takes the place of every sinner.

We must remember that substitution is the heart of the Gospel. To help us understand this even better, think of the Day of Atonement in the Old Testament. God instructed the High Priest to lay both hands on the head of the scapegoat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the people, all the sins of all the people, thereby putting the people's sin into that goat. Then, that goat was sent into the desert, carrying the sins of the people into that deserted place.

The idea was that God would take their sins off of His people and transfer them to that goat. Then, that goat would carry those sins away, so that those sins would be gone forever.

Dear Friends in Christ, Jesus is our Scapegoat. God took our sins off of us and put them on Jesus. Then, Jesus went to the deserted place of the cross, so that our sins would be gone forever in His cleansing blood.

Jesus was, in His baptism, taking the place of us poor, miserable sinners in order to carry our sins to the cross and forever absolve us from all sin with His Easter resurrection. Now, in our baptism, we sinners are given His righteousness so that it may be our very own. “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him [that is, in Christ] we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor 5).

We become righteous before God in our baptism. “For as many of you as were baptized in Christ have put on Christ,” Paul writes (Ga 3). In the new birth of our baptism, we are given the righteousness of Christ to wear so that it “covers over” all the filth and shame of our sin. God looks at us and does not see our sin anymore. He sees only the righteousness of Christ. Wearing the righteousness of Christ, God is well pleased with you.

“To fulfill all righteousness” that’s why Jesus goes to the Jordan and is baptized with sinners like us. That why He suffers and dies and rises again. That’s why He comes to you in your own baptism. In your own baptism, there is Jesus standing with you, and there you are – dying with Him and rising with Him. There you are receiving from Him the gifts that He has won: deliverance from death and the devil, forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. There you are receiving from Him eyes that are wide open to God’s love; ears that hear His voice and follow Him, and release from the dungeon and the prison of sin and hell. There you are having all righteousness fulfilled, having God’s plan of divine salvation enacted in your own life.

And there is more to come. There is more to come for there is one last part of this fulfilling of all righteousness, one last part of this divine plan of salvation. And this part of the will does not include suffering and humiliation and the cross; this part of the plan involves Jesus coming in all the power and might and glory and majesty of God, for that’s what He will do on the last day as He comes as our Judge with His winnowing fork to clear the threshing floor to take the wheat and put it into the barn and take the chaff and burn it with unquenchable fire. And on that day, you will be part of the wheat and you will be put into His barn. And God will say to you what He said to you when you were baptized, “This is my beloved son, this

is my beloved daughter, with whom I am well pleased,” for in Christ all righteousness is fulfilled. Amen.

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Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

January 12, 2014



"You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased."

Mark 1:11b

Divine Service Setting One

Hymn of Invocation # 399

Confession & Absolution p. 151

Introit

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

I will tell of the decree:

The Lord said to me, "You are my son; today I have begotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the Lord with fear,
and rejoice with trembling,

for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

Kyrie p. 152

Glory to God p. 154

Salutation & Collect p. 156

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9 (ESV)

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:

"I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."

Gradual

Praise the Lord, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Epistle Reading: Romans 6:1-11 (ESV)

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

“Alleluia”

p. 156

Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 3:13-17 (ESV)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "*Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.*" Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "*This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*"

Apostles' Creed	p. 159
Hymn of the Day	# 406 (st. 1-4)
Sermon: "To Fulfill All Righteousness"	
Installation of LWML Officers	
Prayer of the Church	
Offering	
"What Shall I Render"	p. 159
Service of the Sacrament	p. 160
Distribution Hymns	# 594, 620
"Thank the Lord"	p. 164
Post-Communion Collect	p. 166
Benediction	p. 166
Closing Hymn	# 601

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in which we joyfully receive Christ's Body and Blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we celebrate the Sacrament, we also give public witness that we are in complete agreement with the denomination's doctrinal teachings at whose altar we commune. Therefore, we ask that only communicant members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod commune with us. All guests are asked to talk to Rev. Heller before coming to the altar to receive the Sacrament.

In our thoughts and prayers,

- † Kyle Miller (Nona Blaisdell's brother) and Agnes Wiedrich;
- † Jamey & Tracy Backus on the birth of a son, Aackley Wayne;
- † Our LWML officers, as they are installed today;
- † Our nursing home residents, that God would keep them under His gracious care.

Welcome to worship as Jesus reveals Himself to us as the Son of God in this season of Epiphany. To save us, Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River to have the sins of all the world washed upon Him so that He would be the sin bearer for us. At His Baptism, He was anointed with the Holy Spirit to carry the guilt of our sin to the death of the cross. Bearing the world's sin, God proclaimed Jesus to be His Son in whom He is well-pleased. Visitors, please sign our guest book and worship with us again soon.



LWML mites will be collected today following the gathering of our morning offerings.

Your 2014 Contribution Statement has either been emailed or is in your Church mailbox this morning. If you haven't picked up your 2014 offering envelopes, you can find them on the table outside Pastor's study.

2014 Greeters are needed. A new sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

An updated telephone directory of Concordia members



has been completed. If you would like a copy, sign your name on the sheet of paper on the table in the fellowship hall. A copy will then be put in your Church mailbox.

The January calendar, birthday and anniversary sheet and November Council minutes are in the black stacking trays in the fellowship hall.



The January Human Care Project is collecting soup for Women's Action & Resource Center. Please put your donations in the shelf unit in the entryway. Thank you.

Gideons International: The mission of Gideons International is to win the lost for Christ, through the distribution of Bibles and New Testaments. The Gideons have placed or distributed more than 1.8 billion complete Bibles and New Testaments in more than 190 countries around the world. Next Sunday, January 19th, a representative from the Gideons will be with us to share with us their work.



Stewardship of Offerings & Attendance

Attendance: 57 Offerings: \$1,755.00

But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." The reason God sent His Son into the world is to fulfill all righteousness for us, to do what we could not do. So here Jesus plunges Himself into our sins and soaks them up in His baptism, so that in our baptism we might be cleansed and renewed. The whole of Jesus' life, everything He did and said, was one great offering to the Father in our stead to fulfill all righteousness for us.

We are the North Dakota District...

Do you get kind-of down and depressed during the winter months? During this time of year there is more darkness than light. It doesn't have to be that way. Ask you pastor what Bible Studies are offered, that you may learn of Jesus and grow in the LIGHT of Christ. There are many wonderful Bible Study resources throughout our District. Talk to your pastor today about being in the Word.

President Baneck

† This Week at Concordia †

Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service *Installation of LWML Officers/Mites
	9:30 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	11:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
Tuesday	10:15 am	KRCC Communion
	1:30 pm	Naomi Guild
Wednesday	3:30 pm	1 st -year Catechism
	4:30 pm	2 nd -year Catechism
	7:00 pm	Chime Practice
	7:30 pm	Bell Practice
Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	11:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Church: 873-4388 Parsonage: 873-4223
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concordiasecretary@westriv.com
Website: www.concordiabeulah.org

*Please use a pew card to record your worship and/or
Communion attendance this morning.*