

October 19, 2025



Week 7 – JOHN the BAPTIST (Matthew 3, pp. 51-57)

We started our study by investigating the prophecies about Christ, the Annunciation of His birth, the responses of Mary and Joseph, and the events surrounding His birth in Bethlehem. Last week we jumped ahead to his Bar Mitzvah, when he dialogued with the Teachers of the Law in the Temple at age 12. And this week we've jumped ahead again to the Baptism of our Lord by John the Baptist in the Jordan.

Who is John? _____

What is John's ministry? _____

What does it mean to "prepare the way of the Lord?" How does John do this? _____

John's ministry brings him into to conflict with the religious and political leaders of Israel. **What does John call the Pharisees and Sadducees who came to his baptism? Why?** _____

Why does John push back on those who claim to be Abraham's offspring? _____

What warning does John give to the unrepentant? _____

John recognizes that his ministry has a purpose which is realized with the coming of the Messiah. **What does John say about the coming of Christ?** _____

When Jesus asks John to baptize Him, what is John's response and why? _____

What is the significance of Jesus' Baptism? _____

How does it "fulfill all righteousness?" _____

The Baptismal Liturgy in the LSB includes Luther's "Flood Prayer" :
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, prefiguring 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 (the baptized) according to Your boundless mercy and bless him with true faith by the Holy Spirit that through this saving flood all sin in him which has been inherited from Adam and which he himself has committed since would be drowned and die. Grant that he 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 would be declared worthy of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (LSB 268-269)

What significant things does this prayer confess about Baptism? _____

Read Romans 6:2-5

How is the Baptism of Jesus connected with your own Baptism? _____

Read or Sing LSB 594 – "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It!"

For Next Time:

Week 8 – THE TEMPTATION IN THE WILDERNESS (Luke 4:1-13, pp. 60-65)