

JANUARY 11, 2026
BAPTISM OF
OUR LORD

taking+ faith home

Jesus is declared as God's beloved Son.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

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| Sunday | Matthew 3:13-17 | The baptism of Jesus |
| Monday | Isaiah 42:1-9 | The Lord's servant |
| Tuesday | Acts 10:34-43 | Gentiles hear the good news |
| Wednesday | Matthew 1:1-17 | Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah |
| Thursday | Matthew 2:13-23 | Going to and return from Egypt |
| Friday | Acts 8:26-40 | An Ethiopian is baptized |
| Saturday | Psalm 29 | Voice of God in a storm |
| Sunday | John 1:29-42 | Jesus, the Lamb of God |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who comes to fulfill your promise of life and salvation for all. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God bless this food. God bless this day. God keep us safe in every way. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you strength and bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:11)

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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Christ, When for Us You
Were Baptized*

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:

- What do you know about your own baptism or recall about a baptism you have seen?
- How is God's love and approval at Jesus' baptism important to his future work?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 3:13-17.

We can quickly move from Jesus' baptism to wonder about our own. What can be missed is a focus on the importance of Jesus' baptism as a statement of who Jesus is. We are not the savior of the world, Jesus is. Jesus fulfills the righteous intent of God announced by the law and the prophets, not us. Jesus' presence announces God's ruling activity among Israel and the nations. Jesus' life fulfilled by the word of the prophets leads to his baptism and the divine voice from heaven that points to Jesus as the Christ, the anointed one. It is good to reflect on our own baptism and do so in a way that finds comfort and meaning in the identity of who Jesus is, whose own baptism stands alone to announce that God's will is fulfilled in this one and this one alone.

Discuss: What does it mean to you that God calls Jesus, "My Son, the Beloved"?

Pray: Almighty and living God, we give thanks for Jesus' baptism that announces that he is the one who comes as your Son and enters the world as our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what does it mean to serve others in Jesus' name?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

When we describe someone as beloved, it means we love that person dearly. God named Jesus as beloved at his baptism. When we are baptized, we too, become a beloved member of God's family. Share in a ritual of baptismal remembrance. Place a bowl of water in the center of your table. Dip a finger in the water and make the sign of the cross on your own forehead or that of another person.

Say: You are a beloved child of God marked with the cross of Christ forever.