

## **Baptism Week**

### **Introduction**

Jesus' public ministry begins with his baptism. John the Baptist is baptizing in the Jordan river. A few things are clear about John's baptism. First, people were excited about it. All the city folks were traveling to the country to experience it, and it was a baptism symbolizing repentance. Most importantly, this baptism and John pointed to Jesus who would give a greater baptism.

The text makes it clear that Jesus doesn't need to repent, but "to fulfill all righteousness," Jesus urges John to baptize him. The voice of God after Jesus arises from the water helps us know who Jesus is. He's the Son of God!

The text in Romans helps us understand the Baptism we receive from Jesus. It's more than repentance. It's more than a symbol. It's about our relationship with Jesus. In baptism we have died with Jesus! And if we have died with him, we will rise with him! It is a promise from God, an act of the Holy Spirit that drowns the sinner, raises the saint, and empowers us to live a new life!

### **Read Your Bible**

- Romans 6:3-5
- Matthew 3:13-17

### **Apply God's Word to Your Life:**

1. Have you been baptized? What is the story of your baptism (if you can remember)?
  - a. If not, see if you can learn more about it.

2. How do you think Jesus felt when he heard the Father's voice from heaven?
3. How did John first respond to Jesus' request to be baptized?
4. Why do you think Jesus' public ministry begins with his baptism?
5. What do you find most hopeful about the reading in Romans?
6. How does baptism change our behavior today?
7. How can you remember the promise of your baptism?
8. How can you live out your baptism everyday?

**Reflecting on the text:**

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

**Pray**

Eternal Lord, thank you for raising us to new life through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. In Baptism, we have been buried with Christ and raised to new life. We praise you Lord that the old is gone and the new has come for you have washed us with pure water and the Holy Spirit. We love you, Lord. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!