

# LUTHER'S CATECHISM



Baptism  
March 11, 2020

## ORDER OF SERVICE

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### OPENING HYMN

*Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain* | CW 106

*Please stand.*

### OPENING DIALOGUE

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. But I have also sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. I do not fully cherish the gift you have given me through water and the Word, nor do I live the way you want your baptized children to live. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

M: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### PRAYER

M: Let us pray—Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated*

## SCRIPTURE READING

*Acts 16:16-34*

<sup>16</sup> Once when we were going to the place of prayer, a slave girl met us. She had a spirit that foretold the future, and she made a large profit for her owners by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> As she followed Paul and us, she kept crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way to be saved." <sup>18</sup> When she kept doing this for many days, Paul became so annoyed that he turned to the spirit and said, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.

<sup>19</sup> When her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup> They had brought them to the magistrates and said, "These men are throwing our city into a state of confusion. They are Jews, <sup>21</sup> and they are teaching customs that are not lawful for us to accept or practice, since we are Romans."

<sup>22</sup> When the crowd also joined in the attack against them, the magistrates tore off their clothes and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had beaten them severely, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to guard them securely. <sup>24</sup> Because he received such a command, the jailer threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. Instantly all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains came loose.

<sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke up and saw that the prison doors were opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, because he thought that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted with a loud voice, "Don't harm yourself, because we are all here!"

<sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling in front of Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them outside and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

<sup>31</sup> They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to everyone in his home. <sup>33</sup> At the same hour of the night, he took them and washed their wounds. Without delay, he and all his family were baptized. <sup>34</sup> Then he brought Paul and Silas into his house and set food before them. He rejoiced, because he and his whole household had come to believe in God. (EHV)

**4:00 - PSALM 42-43**

*Read responsively from the hymnal.*

**ALL: Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.**

M: As the deer pants for streams of water,  
So my soul pants for you, O God.

**C: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
Where can I go and meet with God?**

M: Why are you downcast, O my soul?  
Why so disturbed within me?

**C: Put your hope in God,  
For I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.**

**ALL: Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.**

M: Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me;  
Let them bring me to the place where you dwell.

**C: Then I will go to the altar of God, my joy and my delight.  
I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.**

**ALL: 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.**

**ALL: Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.**

**6:30 - CHOIR**

*Purify My Heart (based on Psalm 51)*

**CATECHISM READING**

M: FIRST: What is baptism?

**C: Baptism is not just plain water, but it is water used by God's  
command and connected with God's Word.**

M: Which is that Word of God?

**C: Christ the Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "Go and make  
disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and  
of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!"**

M: SECOND: What does baptism do for us?

**C: Baptism works forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and the devil  
and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and  
promises of God declare.**

M: What is God's promise?

**C: Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."**

M: THIRD: How can water do such great things?

**C: It is certainly not the water that does such things, but God's Word which is in and with the water, and faith which trusts this Word used with the water. For without God's Word the water is just plain water and not Baptism. But with this Word it is Baptism. God's Word makes it a washing through which God graciously forgives our sin and grants us rebirth and a new life through the Holy Spirit.**

M: Where is this written?

**C: St. Paul says in Titus, chapter 3, "God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying."**

M: Fourth: What does baptizing with water mean?

**C: It means that our Old Adam with his evil deeds and desires should be drowned by daily contrition and repentance, and die, and that day by day a new man should arise, as from the dead, to live in the presence of God in righteousness and purity now and forever.**

M: Where is this written?

**C: St. Paul says in Romans, chapter 6, "We were buried with Christ through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."**

## **SEASONAL RESPONSE**

M: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**C: By his wounds we are healed.**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

*Luke 3:1-18*

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene—<sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a

baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: A voice of one calling in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup> Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth. <sup>6</sup> And everyone will see the salvation of God.”

<sup>7</sup> So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup> The crowds began to ask him, “What should we do then?”

<sup>11</sup> He answered them, “Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same.”

<sup>12</sup> Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, “Teacher, what should we do?”

<sup>13</sup> To them he said, “Collect no more than what you were authorized to.”

<sup>14</sup> Soldiers were also asking him, “And what should we do?”

He told them, “Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup> Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people. (EHV)

**HYMN** *All Christians Who Have Been Baptized | CWS 736*



1 All Chris - tians who have been bap - tized, Who  
 2 You were be - fore your day of birth, In -  
 3 But all of that was washed a - way— Im -  
 4 In Bap - tism we now put on Christ— Our  
 5 O Chris - tian, firm - ly hold this gift And  
 6 So use it well! You are made new— In

know the God of heav - en, And  
deed, from your con - cep - tion, Con -  
mersed and drowned for - ev - er. The  
shame is ful - ly cov - ered With  
give God thanks for - ev - er! It  
Christ a new cre - a - tion! As

in whose dai - ly life is prized The  
demned and lost with all the earth, None  
wa - ter of your bap - tism day Re -  
all that he once sac - ri - ficed And  
gives the pow - er to up - lift In  
faith - ful Chris - tians live and do With -

name of Christ once giv - en: Con -  
good, with - out ex - cep - tion. For  
stored a - gain what - ev - er Old  
free - ly for us suf - fered. For  
all that you en - deav - or. When  
in your own vo - ca - tion, Un -

si - der now what God has done, The  
like your par - ents' flesh and blood, Turned  
A - dam and his sin de - stroyed And  
here the flood of his own blood Now  
noth - ing else re - vives your soul, Your  
til that day when you pos - sess His

gifts he gives to ev - 'ry - one Bap -  
in - ward from the high - est good, You  
all our sin - ful selves em - ployed Ac -  
makes us ho - ly, right, and good Be -  
bap - tism stands and makes you whole And  
glo - rious robe of right - eous - ness Be -

tized in - to Christ Je - sus!  
con - stant - ly de - nied him.  
cord - ing to our na - ture.  
fore our heav'n - ly Fa - ther.  
then in death com - pletes you.  
stowed on you for - ev - er!

## SERMON

### OFFERING

*Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. Guests, please don't feel obligated to take part in the offering. We're just happy you're here as our guest to hear and take to heart the message of Jesus. Please fill out the friendship register as it is passed.*

*Please stand.*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

#### LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

**C: I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

#### BLESSING

**M:** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, † and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated.*

#### HYMN

*On My Heart Imprint Your Image | CW 319*

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