

A Sacramental Celebration

Baptism - What and why?

Eternal Life - to *know* God, to be in *relationship* with him and to *experience* all the goodness of that relationship both in the *present age* and the *age to come*.

Joining Christ in his death and resurrection.

Romans 6:10-11 For the death he died, he died to sin once for all time; but the life he lives, he lives to God. **11** So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Baptism beautifully and vividly displays

- death to the old life of unbelief (burial)
- purification from the pollution of sin (cleansing)

Sprinkling - captures the OT image of the priest sprinkling the people with the blood of the sacrifice offered to make atonement between a holy God and a sinful nation.

Pouring - signifies God's promise to pour out His Spirit on all people (Acts 2:17).

Immersion - This is our practice. The image of burial and resurrection is at the core of this practice.

Romans 6:3-4 Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.

Clear examples:

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:37-38)

John the Baptist (John 3:23)

Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17)

- Baptism is part of Jesus' commission to the church.

Matthew 28:19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

- Baptism is a sign of our union with Jesus. It is a tangible act of obedience.

Ephesians 1:13 In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed.

We appeal to the triune God in baptism. There is no salvation without God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

- Baptism is an expression of faith by the one being baptized.

Colossians 2:9-13 For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ, **10** and you have been filled by him, who is the head over every ruler and authority. **11** You were also circumcised in him with a circumcision not done with hands, by putting off the body of flesh, in the circumcision of Christ, **12** when you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. **13** And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses.

- Baptism is a sacrament of the church.
- Baptism is an opportunity for personal and communal reflection.
How does my baptism fuel my faith?

Question: Do you understand the good news of Jesus? Have you made a decision to follow Jesus and experienced the forgiveness of sin? If so - have you been baptized?