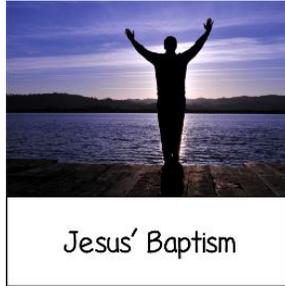


God's Story Your Story

January 11, 2015



Matthew 3:1-17

FAITH 5 – A pattern for shaping a life of faith

SHARE:

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ reflect on the key verse from Sunday's reading.

This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Matthew 3:3

TALK

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- How does your community of faith honor its baptismal promises for those who are baptized?
- How do you claim God's baptismal promises in your daily life?
- What difference does your baptism make in your life?

PRAY

Jesus Christ of Spirit and fire, at your baptism you began your public ministry. Open our hearts to receive the words you came to speak. Open our lips to share your message of love with all who will hear, for the glory of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bless:

You, O God, call us to turn to you daily. Open our ears to hear your word and our lives to follow you. Amen.

Some Background

John the Baptist was a prophet at the time of Jesus. He baptized in the Jordan River, asking people to repent for their sins. He knew Jesus was coming. He also knew that when Jesus started baptizing, it would be even more powerful. Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.

John gathered followers, baptizing them into a life of righteous living. Religious and political leaders who arrived at the Jordan River were reprimanded for their lack of righteous living. When Jesus was baptized, his public ministry began. He helped people to understand that righteous living was necessary, not for eternal salvation, but for the well-being of the human community.

Follow the visit from the Magi, and see how their gifts were used in their rites and rituals.

Sunday, Matthew 3:1-17, *Jesus' Baptism*

Monday, Psalm 2:7-8, *Psalm*

Tuesday, Judges 13:1-7, *The Birth of Samson*

Wednesday, Isaiah 11:1-9, *God's Peaceful Kingdom*

Thursday, Zechariah 3:1-10, *Joshua and Satan*

Friday, Numbers 31:21-24, *Cleansing by Fire*

Saturday, Isaiah 40:1-11, *A Voice in the Wilderness*