

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

FROM LUTHER'S PRAYERS:

O Father, grant us also that we may be your heavenly children. Teach us to be mindful only of our souls and our heavenly heritage, so that our earthly country and inheritance may not deceive, nor limit, nor hinder us. Neither make us mere children of this world, so we may in reality call you our heavenly Father and may truly be your heavenly children. Amen.

FROM LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM:

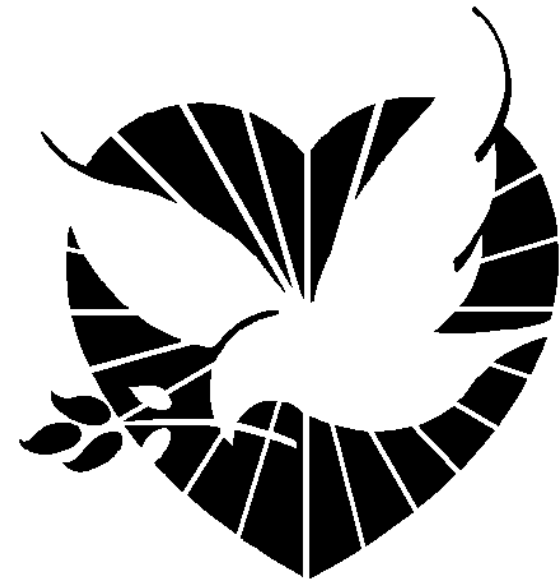
The Lord's Prayer:

Introduction

Our Father in heaven.

What is this?

With these words God wants to attract us, so that we believe he is truly our Father and we are truly his children, in order that we may ask him boldly and with complete confidence, just as loving children ask their loving father.



Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful in their calling to be your children and inheritors with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

13 Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” 15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

PSALM 29

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the GOD of glory thunders;
The LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
The voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
The LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
6 he makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
And Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
The LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe
And strips the forest bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD
All are crying, “Glory!”
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
The LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people;
The LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?

This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew iii. 17.

With these words He says to us naught else than this; there I give unto you all My grace, love, and blessing, which I have in My heart and My power. For, that you may not and cannot doubt it in your minds, I offer unto you here—not Moses, not a prophet, nor an angel, nor a saint, nor a treasure of gold and silver, nor great earthly or heavenly gifts—but My beloved Son, that is; My very heart, the true, eternal fountain of all grace and good, which no angel nor any creature in heaven and on earth can fathom. He shall be the token and pledge of My grace and love against your sin and fear. And inasmuch as He is by birth and right the true heir and Lord of all creatures, so shall ye in Him become my children and joint-heirs, and inherit all that He possesses in His power. For in addition to giving us His privilege, and inheritance which are His by nature, He has merited and bought us through suffering and death as our priest and bishop, that we may be His chosen children, and eternally joint-heirs of all His goods. What more could He have given or done for us, and what greater or better thing could man’s heart desire or conceive?

*Sermon on Holy Baptism
Epiphany, 1535.*

E.A. 16. 85.

Taken from the book:

Day by Day We Magnify Thee

by Martin Luther

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