

Anniversary of a Baptism

- Anniversary of a Baptism is intended for use in the home and may be led by a parent or sponsor.
- A baptismal hymn may be sung.
- The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism as they say: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- As the baptismal candle is lighted, the leader may say: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. - OR - Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- One or more lessons may be read by members of the family:

A READING FROM EPHESIANS: In Christ you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.
(Eph. 1:13 - 14)

A READING FROM SECOND CORINTHIANS: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. (2 Cor. 5:17)

A READING FROM ST. MATTHEW: Some people brought children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and to pray for them, but the disciples scolded the people. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as These." He placed his hands on them and then went away.
(Matt. 19:13-15)

- Those present may discuss the meaning of Baptism for daily life. The service of Holy Baptism or Luther's Small Catechism may serve as the basis for such discussion. The leader may introduce this conversation with these words:

In Baptism, God brings us into his family and calls us his own. By Baptism, God gives us the gifts of faith, love, life, forgiveness, and strength, and asks us to respond in faithfulness to him and in service to others.

In answer to the question, "What does Baptism mean for daily living" The Small Catechism responds: "It means that our sinful self, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be disowned through daily repentance; and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever."

- Prayers follow:

Leader: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, we thank you for the new life you have given us through Holy Baptism. Especially, we ask you to bless _____ on the anniversary of his/her Baptism.

Continue to strengthen _____ with the Holy Spirit, and increase in him/her your gifts of grace: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, and Spirit of joy in your presence: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Those present may be invited to offer petitions and thanksgivings; conclude with The Lord's Prayer. The blessing is said.

Leader: The Lord Almighty bless us, and direct our days and our deeds in his peace.

All: Amen.

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