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## THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

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*Daily Devotion at Zion + August 2, 2020 AD + **Pentecost Season***

### **This Week: Remembering Baptism Daily**

It's easy to think of Baptism as something we did years ago, but God looks at it differently.

He primed the world for Baptism from the very beginning. He made water an essential feature of life (Genesis 1:2), and by water He both condemned the wicked and saved Noah and His family (Genesis 7). He brought Israel through the water of the Red Sea (Exodus 14) and Jordan River (Joshua 3) to the promised land, and through the laws of Moses, He commanded washings and baths as part of Israel's worship and hygiene (cf. Leviticus 13-15). It all prepared the world for that glorious baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River and His resurrection command: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing . . ." (Matthew 28:19-20). God remembered His plan of baptism from the very start!

So do we.

Holy Baptism is a gift for every day. Because it unites believers with Jesus Christ in His death (Romans 6:1-4), it also joins them to His path of new life and the promised resurrection (Romans 6:5). We therefore look at Holy Baptism every day for the truth about ourselves and the direction of our lives. We live in the power of His death, which is the power of repentance and sacrifice, and in the promise of His resurrection, which teaches us to love this creation as He has loved it and first loved us.

### **About the Cover Art**

*Beverly Klucher painted "A Baptism" in 1993 A.D. An dark background (glowing dimly with varied colors, suggesting stained glass) is interrupted by the bright white and blue of the pastor's robe and the baby's blanket. Yet the brightest colors are kept for the baptismal water itself and the point at which it touches the child head. There we see an almost otherworldly radiance. Such an intimate and up-close perspective on an infant's baptism, in which the adults melt into the background, almost unobserved, reminds us that God Himself works in Baptism, personally greeting all who come to the font, including infants.*

**“In the Name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”**

Our Lord gives us *sacraments*, or holy gifts, to touch us with His grace and put His promise of salvation to work in us. Each sacrament is like a delivery truck, carrying God’s goods where He wants them. To be touched by a sacrament is to know that God wants that goodness *with you*.

The good that Baptism delivers is God’s Name: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Through the Bible, we learn that God’s name carries His power. What is this power? It’s the power of the Father who sent His Son to die and be raised in the Spirit. In Baptism, God puts the power of His Son’s *death* and *resurrection* to work in you.

One way we “use” our Baptism daily is to use that Name in daily devotion. Turn the page to learn more.

**Daily Readings for the Week of August 9 (Pentecost 10)**

<b>S</b>	Joshua 6:15-27 Acts 22:30-23:11 Mark 2:1-12	Romans 15:1-13 Matthew 26:69-75
<b>M</b>	Joshua 7:1-13 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 26:36-46	<b>F</b> Joshua 9:22-10:15 Romans 15:14-24 Matthew 27:1-10
<b>T</b>	Joshua 8:1-22 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 26:47-56	<b>Sa</b> Joshua 23: 1-16 Romans 15:25-33 Matthew 27:11-23
<b>W</b>	Joshua 8:30-35 Romans 14:13-23 Matthew 26:57-68	<i><b>These readings correspond to pages 327-358 in Volume IV of <u>For All the Saints</u>. To acquire <u>For All the Saints</u> or other devotionals, please contact the church office.</b></i>
<b>Th</b>	Joshua 9:3-21	

## Baptism Every Day: Using the Name God Gives Us

God's Words are sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103), costlier than silver (Psalm 12:6), and full of Spirit and life (John 3:34, 6:63). We don't rush through them or pass over them; we dwell on them, more than we cherish a text or greeting card from a loved one.

The household prayers of the Lutheran church teach us to begin and end the day with these words from God, given to us at Holy Baptism: "in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (crossing ourselves as we say them). By "marking" ourselves with those words, we are returning each day to Baptism's promise: "God is my Father, who sent His Son to die for me and give me life in the Spirit. I belong to this God, and He is at work in me."

Take your time with that Name; don't rush it. Remember: it is God's own word. Dwell in it. Speak it slowly and deliberately over yourself, at morning, noon, and night. Let that name become as valuable to you as your own name, even more so. Speak it when you are scared, or when you are alone; speak it before meals. Let it shape your prayer, as well: pray to the Father, through the Son, trusting in the Spirit. Let the Name of God accompany, guide, and protect you.

People sometimes wonder how to make the sign of the cross. The diagram at right gives a visual rendering. Pressing your thumb to your first two or three fingers, you trace it from forehead to lower chest to right shoulder to left shoulder. Left to right is just fine, too! The right-to-left approach is historically Lutheran, designed to trace the cross made on a person at his or her Baptism. Either way, it reminds us that the heart of God's Name is the Son who died for us. The power of His cross is the power at work in us who bear the Name of the Lord.

