

Daily Devotions for May 4-10, 2025

Hymn of the Week: 596 ALL CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED

- 1 All Christians who have been baptized,
Who know the God of heaven,
And in whose daily life is prized
The name of Christ once given:
Consider now what God has done,
The gifts He gives to ev'ryone
Baptized into Christ Jesus!
- 2 You were before your day of birth,
Indeed, from your conception,
Condemned and lost with all the earth,
None good, without exception.
For like your parents' flesh and blood,
Turned inward from the highest good,
You constantly denied Him.
- 3 But all of that was washed away—
Immersed and drowned forever.
The water of your Baptism day
Restored again whatever
Old Adam and his sin destroyed
And all our sinful selves employed
According to our nature.

- 4 In Baptism we now put on Christ—
Our shame is fully covered
With all that He once sacrificed
And freely for us suffered.
For here the flood of His own blood
Now makes us holy, right, and good
Before our heav'nly Father.
- 5 O Christian, firmly hold this gift
And give God thanks forever!
It gives the power to uplift
In all that you endeavor.
When nothing else revives your soul,
Your Baptism stands and makes you whole
And then in death completes you.
- 6 So use it well! You are made new—
In Christ a new creation!
As faithful Christians, live and do
Within your own vocation,
Until that day when you possess
His glorious robe of righteousness
Bestowed on you forever!

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. Jon D. Vieker, 1961

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Bible Memory Verse for the week Galatians 3:26–27

²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Weekly Catechism: HOLY BAPTISM - THIRD

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5–8)

We pray for others and for ourselves:

- ✝ We pray for all those facing health problems: Jane S (recovering from a fall), Darlene F, Jerry Babb, Jerry and Claudia Bullock, Joan C, Jan's business colleague Brian (hearing), Jan's friend Helen and her sister Margaret, Eric, Carol Meyer, Marilyn L's sister Cathy and husband Jerry – ongoing health concerns, Rod – friend at Haven Homes, Pastor Evans.
- ✝ For all with cancer: Colleen's niece Karen, Jerry Babb's brother-in-law Ron, Karl, Jim M' neighbor John and his brother in law Dean (stage 1), Dick's friend Jim, Don & Sandi's friend Jan Carr, Pat, Mary S., Thelma (resident at Stone Bay where Jerry Bullock is), 7-year old son of friends of Jan – may he and his family rely on God in a difficult and probably long-term situation.
- ✝ For Tracy W and family whose father Lee died recently.
- ✝ For Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Minnetonka that God will soon provide a pastor for them.
- ✝ For the Holy Spirit to use us to call others to repentance and faith and life in Christ

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