

## LIVING OUR **BAPTISM**...*Five gifts of discipleship*

When a baptized Christian affirms the faith (often called confirmation) the presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism and asks the question: Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

**to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?**

RESPONSE: We do, and ask God to help and guide us. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 236)

And so begins a daily claiming and re-discovering of the God-given gifts of discipleship. These gifts overlap and are intertwined as one gift flows into another and into faithful living.

### **FIVE GIFTS OF DISCIPLESHIP ... *during Easter***

The season of Easter is an ideal time of the church year to emphasize LIVING OUR BAPTISM and discover the five gifts of discipleship. Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus defeats death itself. He is risen indeed!

Easter propels us from the tomb and stench of death into a new life provided by Christ alone. Jesus lives again, but the story of his resurrection is not limited to his own single life. He lives, so others might live again. He lives, so we might be infused by the Holy Spirit to live as a new creation and in loving relationship with God.

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans writes,

"Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in the newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." (Romans 6:4-5 NRSV)

Baptism and Easter have always had a strong connection. As Christianity spread in the early church, the weeks before Easter were used to instruct and prepare people for their upcoming baptism at the Easter Vigil—the night before Easter Sunday. The liturgy of Holy Baptism beautifully describes this new life in Christ Jesus:

"God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world." (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, page 227)

Of all seasons of the year, the weeks of the Easter season end themselves to focus on "Living our Baptism." What does it mean to "join in God's mission for the life of the world"?



## **LIVING OUR BAPTISM**

During the season of Easter, focus on “Living our Baptism.” Integrate key sentences from the liturgy of Sacrament of Holy Baptism with the gifts of discipleship:

to live among God’s faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth? (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 236)

### **EASTER: Living Our Baptism!**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 230)

### **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER: Live among God’s faithful people**

We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 227)

### **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER: Hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,**

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 231)

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.**

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 231)

### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: Serve all people, following the example of Jesus.**

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 230)

### **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: Strive for justice and peace in all the earth**

We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God’s mission for the life of the world. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 227)

### **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: Alleluia!**

Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 231)

## **LIVING OUR BAPTISM**

### **7 Texts for**

### **7 days or 7 weeks**

What does it mean to have a life in Christ?

Romans 5:10-11

Romans 5:17-18

Romans 6:4

Romans 6:22-23

Romans 8:2

Romans 8:6

Romans 8:38-39