

Week 6 Baptism – August 17, 2026: *With Whom I am Well Pleased*

Gathering Song [*We Are Baptized In Christ Jesus*](#) (ELW 451)

Daily Prayer *Jesus, Jesus you are with me as I step into this day.*

Let me hear you gently calling, “Precious child, walk this way.”

Jesus, Jesus when I hear you, calling me to follow you,

In that hour, give me grace to love my neighbor like you do. Amen.

Scripture: Mark 1:9-11 Context:4-11 With Whom I am Well Pleased

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Devotional Thoughts Imagine being in that moment and suddenly seeing the heavens open and hearing a voice coming from seemingly out of nowhere. We all might have felt the need to pay attention as we realized that something incredible was happening. God’s voice is heard from heaven, naming Jesus as God’s son, and declaring that God loves and is pleased with Jesus and his baptism.

So why is it important that Jesus is baptized by a sinful human, John the Baptist? If Jesus is fully divine, it would seem logical that the cleansing act of baptism wouldn’t be required. However, Mark highlights the significant moment as Jesus, also fully human, embraces and lives out the example of grace and righteousness for his disciples and for all of us to follow.

This event happens as Jesus begins his public ministry and is gathering his disciples. This event also fulfills an Old Testament prophecy (Isaiah 42:1) predicting a faithful servant in whom God would delight. Our Lutheran understanding of Jesus’ baptism is deeply rooted in the belief that it was necessary for Jesus to fulfill the requirements of righteousness. *“You are my son, with whom I am well pleased”.*

This Week’s Challenge? How can you humble yourself and acknowledge the mistakes you have made this week? If we are to have any hope of extending grace to others around us who make mistakes, it is important to acknowledge our own mistakes. *“And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us”.*

Just as God is pleased when Jesus humbles himself and is baptized by John the Baptist, let us practice humility this week and work on the words of the Lord’s Prayer, *“as we forgive those”* just as God forgives us.

Affirmation of Christian Vocation: Make the sign of the cross on your forehead (or if you are doing this devotion with others, make the sign on the forehead of another) while saying...

All that we do belongs to God—our work and our rest.

We follow Jesus with thankful hearts and open hands, serving our neighbor in love.

Morning and evening, at work and at play, our life is in Christ Jesus our Lord. AMEN