

# Holy Baptism



# Adult Confirmation

## First Things:

- Recite the books of the Bible.
- Recite the **Six Chief Parts** of the Catechism.
- Recite the Ten Commandments.
- Recite the Apostle's Creed.

## Terms:

- **Baptism/baptize** - plunging, dipping, washing – wash, purify.
- **Regeneration/new birth/born again** - We may speak of regeneration (**Titus 3:5**) or being “born again” (**1 Peter 1:23**). In John's Gospel (**John 3:5–7**), Jesus uses this image to convey baptismal rebirth “by water and the Spirit.” This new spiritual life is implanted by the power of the Spirit and is also called the “second birth” or being “reborn.”
- **means of grace** - The term “means of grace” denotes the divinely instituted means by which God offers, bestows, and seals to men forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Properly speaking there is 1 means of grace: the Gospel of Christ (*Ro 1:16–17*); but since in the Sacraments the Gospel appears as visible Word; in distinction from the audible Word, it is rightly said that the means of grace are the Gospel and the Sacraments.
- **Sacraments** - 1) sacred act that is (2) instituted by God, (3) has the promise of granting God's grace or forgiveness, and (4) is connected with a visible means or external element.
- **Faith** - trust, confidence, belief – a gift of the Holy Spirit.
- **Law and Gospel** – Law – tells us what we must do. Gospel – tells us what Jesus did for us.
- **Triune Name of God** – *The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. While consistently maintaining that there is only one God, the Bible repeatedly refers to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as that one true God. Each person of the Trinity is fully and completely God. Each does work that only God can do. Each person is eternal, and was not created or made by another person. Each person is rightly acknowledged as the almighty God, and as Lord of all. Each person of the Trinity is rightly worshipped and honored by his creation. If one wishes to be faithful to the entire revelation of Scripture, and therefore to summarize God's self-revelation accurately, these two paradoxical biblical truths must be acknowledged: there is only one God who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is the mystery of the triune (or three-in-one) God that he has revealed in his word (Called to Believe, Teach, and Confess, Mueller, p. 83).*

## Introduction:

Let us not doubt that Baptism is divine. It is not made up or invented by people. For as surely as I can say, “No one has spun the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer out of his head; they are revealed and given by God Himself.” So also I can boast that Baptism is no human plaything, but it is instituted by God Himself. Furthermore, Baptism is most solemnly and strictly commanded so that we must be baptized or we cannot be saved. I note this lest anyone regard Baptism as a silly matter, like putting on a new red coat. <sup>7</sup> For it is of the greatest importance that we value Baptism as excellent, glorious, and exalted. We contend and fight for Baptism chiefly because the world is now so full of sects arguing that Baptism is an outward thing and that outward things are of no benefit. <sup>8</sup> But let Baptism be a thoroughly outward thing. Here stand God's Word and command, which institute, establish, and confirm Baptism. What God institutes and commands cannot be an empty thing. It must be a most precious thing, even though it looked like it had less value than a straw. <sup>9</sup> Up to now people could consider something great when the pope with his letters and bulls gave away indulgences and confirmed altars and churches, solely because of the letters and seals. So we ought to value Baptism much more highly and more precious, because God has commanded it. Besides, it is done in His name. For these are the words, “Go, baptize.” However, do not baptize in your name, but in God's name.

<sup>10</sup> **To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by men, but by God Himself. Therefore, although it is performed by human hands, it is still truly God's own work.** From this fact everyone may readily conclude that Baptism is a far higher work than any work performed by a man or a saint. For what work can we do that is greater than God's work? (*Large Catechism, Martin Luther, p.423-424*).

