

BAPTIZE

Triune Name

"I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Jesus commanded that we baptize in the triune name of God.

Baptized

God

The Community

We do!

Yes!

Amen!

We will!

The congregation makes promises to welcome the baptized and help them grow in faith.

Freedom in Form

While there are some common and consistent elements of baptism, every denomination and congregation has distinct practices and beliefs relating to baptism. These differences reflect deeply held values and express the unique theology and traditions of each community. Questions about how much water is needed, at what age one is baptized, who can baptize, how much preparation is needed before baptism, or what the limitations of baptism may be, have shaped our churches. Regardless of our differences, baptism is a common action that defines Christian life and includes water, words, and community.

Child of God and the Covenant, Member of the Household, Sibling of Christ, Beloved

Water

God is present at baptism.

From Jesus' command to baptize, to the Creator's covenant being consecrated, to the active presence of the Spirit, we see God at work in baptism.

Promises and Proclamations

At baptism, we proclaim our present faith and promise to act into the future. Both the baptized and the members of the community proclaim that they believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and express that faith together. Promises are also made by all participants: the baptized, the baptized's family, the community, and God.

COVENANT: Baptism is a covenant made by God with the people of God, a promise of new life and belonging through Jesus Christ.

BEGINNING: Just as baptism marked Jesus at the beginning of his ministry, baptism represents a starting point in our faith journey.

CONTINUING: God's love stretches from eternity to eternity. Baptism is a moment in that ongoing story.

God has been present in the life of the baptized before baptism and will be present for all time to come.

BELONGING: Baptism marks our formal entry into the household of God, making us members of the body of Christ.

In baptism, we remember that we belong to God and to the community of God's people.

TRANSFORMING: Baptism changes us. It is an eternal mark of our relationship with God. Baptism cleanses us from sin and prepares us for ministry in the world.

Even at our death, baptism is at work when we remember the promise of resurrection.

ONGOING: While baptism occurs in a specific moment at a specific time, the reality of baptism continues to shape our lives.