

WATER WASHED AND SPIRIT BORN



A BAPTISM MANUAL FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

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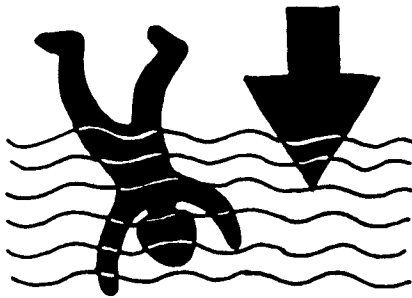
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NOTE: The text includes notes, comments, and brief essays. Most are in boxes. Young readers (and others) may skip these without losing the flow. Chapter 5 is especially for those preparing for baptism. For others, this chapter will be helpful in learning about the baptism ritual. Bible quotations, unless paraphrased, are from the New Revised Standard Version.

ABBREVIATIONS

GEN	Genesis	ACTS	Acts
EX	Exodus	ROM	Romans
NUM	Numbers	I COR	First Corinthians
II KINGS	Second Kings	II COR	Second Corinthians
II CHRON	Second Chronicles	GAL	Galatians
PS	Psalms	EPH	Ephesians
ISA	Isaiah	PHIL	Philippians
MATT	Matthew	COL	Colossians
LUKE	Luke	TITUS	Titus
JOHN	John	REV	Revelation

3. in this sacrament God gives a way of life, a daily pattern of returning to the waters of baptism and there...



we drown. We die again to our old turned-in-on-self being.



we rise again, forgiven and cleansed, to a new life in Christ.

DAILY DYING AND RISING

Luther's teaching on "daily baptism" opens the door to a pattern of life which is both healthy and honest. Living in the Spirit and trusting God, we die each day to our self-centeredness and to the world's normal way of doing things. Then we rise again to the Christ-life. This daily event is both a gift from God and an experience, a happening within us which shapes our attitudes, values, and behavior.

Daily dying and rising can happen anywhere and anytime - in prayer, silence, Bible reading, or holy communion. It can happen at home, school, work, church - even while exercising or while stuck in traffic. Daily baptism can also happen when we go to bed and when we rise, in a heart-to-heart conversation or in hearing words of honesty, correction, love or mercy. It can also happen at times of crisis, loss, sorrow and grief. God works in many ways to lead us from death to life and from falsehood to truth.

4. in baptism we receive a name, an identity, and the assurance that we are children of God. Therefore, being a Christian never depends on how we are feeling, what we accomplish, how well we are behaving, having the right conversion experience, or being free of doubt. Our security rests entirely in God's promises made to us in our baptism.



What Luther said when he was plagued by doubt and despair

5. in baptism we enter "the priesthood of all believers," a people called to a special vocation - being instruments of God's grace, "little Christs" loving and serving the neighbor,* and sacrificing for the sake of others. This priestly work happens in our life roles which Luther called our offices:

Christians in daily life



wife, husband, doctor, patient, teacher, mother, father, son, daughter, uncle, grandchild, grandparent, niece, nephew, student, laborer, manager, musician, community organizer, firefighter, business person, computer specialist, lawyer, grocer, artist, nurse, labor organizer, researcher, pastor, cook, police officer, poet, construction worker, housewife, househusband, dentist, citizen, scholar, judge, friend, CEO, maid, salesperson - the list could go on and on.

NOTES: Luther saw the office of pastor as one role among many, never higher in spiritual standing. All Christians, by baptism, are ordained as priests.
* The neighbor, according to Luther, is everyone - those close and those far away.