

01-07-24 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“The center of the Christian map is the baptismal font... This is where we hear a voice that tells us the truth about ourselves, claiming us as God’s own beloved children, and where God’s own Spirit claims us and anoints us for service... It will be important to return continually to this baptismal place throughout our lives in order to reorient ourselves again and again to this center...”

- Roger Gench



Acts 19:1-7 † Mark 1:4-11

Questions for Reflection —

- What does it mean to you that in your baptism God claims you as God’s beloved child? In what ways do you know yourself as God’s beloved child? With what do you struggle in seeing yourself through God’s eyes? What do you need in order to see God manifest in others? How might you help someone else know that they are one of God’s beloved children? How can we as a congregation better live into our corporate identity as baptized people of God, a community of God’s beloved children?

- How has your baptism given purpose, orientation, and direction for your life? In what ways are you presently in need of reorientation in your life of Christian discipleship? What does it mean for your life—your words, your actions, your motivations—to be baptized afresh in the renewal of baptismal vows? What spiritual practices help to keep the fire of the Holy Spirit burning within you? How can we as a congregation help one another tend the fire within each of us?

- What does it mean for you personally to live as a faithful member of Christ’s holy church and of this particular congregation? With what gifts and graces have you been endowed? How are you presently using those gifts and graces? For what service in the life of the church and in the world do you think you have been anointed by the Holy Spirit? What will help you discern next steps in God’s call for you?

Daily Household Prayer

Living God, when the Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism in Jordan’s water you revealed him as your own beloved Child. You anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Grant that all who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess Jesus as the Christ and Savior now and forever. Amen.