

your world has changed, now you have begun living into all that your heavenly Father has imagined and dreamed possible.

He's inviting you to take it, to grab it, to wrestle with him and grow healthy and strong in him. There is so, so much that your heavenly Dad wants for you. He wants you to stand and walk strong in him. He wants you to hear his voice and learn to speak as he does.

Have you ever noticed how our physical parents are a living parable of all that our heavenly Father is doing? They helped us learn to walk and live life. We heard their voice and then spoke their language. All

because we spent our life with them.

Left to ourselves, what would have happened?

Thank God, in Jesus, you're not left to yourself. Through baptism you have been adopted as Father's child. He has poured his Spirit into you that you can learn to walk and talk like he does. Today Jesus is reminding us to grab the life he gives and live it; live it as we spend time with him, following his example, hearing his voice.

Let us pray. Jesus we invite you to send the Spirit that we might live loved this week. Living

loved by you. Jesus we invite you to send the Spirit that we hear your voice that we might grow in speaking our Father's language, his language of love. Jesus immures us in you, daily washing away the old and raising our new nature in you. Jesus thank you for saving us for life with you, for life lived loved by our heavenly Dad, with you, in the Spirit. Pour into us a burning desire to grow and mature, that we become all Dad has imagined and dreamed possible. Amen.

18 February 2018

THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

1 Peter 3:19-22



The reading from Peter this morning comes in the context of Peter instructing us on how to live our life with Jesus. How this relationship shapes everything we do. To avoid the idea that what we do determines our relationship with Jesus rather than our relationship with Jesus determining what we do. Peter reminds us of God's promise to us through baptism.

Peter reminds us; "You know, even though God waited patiently all the days that Noah built his ark, only a few were saved then, eight to be exact – saved *from* the water *by* the water. The waters of baptism do that for you, not by washing away dirt from your skin but by presenting you

through Jesus' resurrection before God with a clear conscience." (1 Peter 3:19-22 Message)

Did you notice that word 'Saved'?

Apart from the first two chapters of the bible the rest of the bible is about how God is out to save those he loves. This great story of salvation finds its high point in the person of Jesus. God come in person, born your brother. Then he goes to the extreme of dying, allowing himself to be sacrificed so that we might be saved.

Baptism is a reminder that it cost Jesus his life, literally, that we might have life and not just existence. Our life was always meant to be more than a going

from the cradle to the grave for nothing.

Don't you find it a totally depressing thought, that we come from nothing and we go to nothing? Even if it were true I'd choose to believe life has some meaning, some worth, some richness. If we just come to nothing then we label our lives worth nothing, pointless, a momentary distraction.

I just can't accept that; my wife is a loved child of God. My children are loved children of God. They came from God's love, are wrapped in God's love, and will be embraced personally in God's love. And loved people can do what? Loved people can live loved.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

Our relationship with God in Jesus saves us. Saves us to live a life of amazing worth, because we now live loved. Our relationship with God in Jesus saves us. Saves us to live life knowing who we are, living with an identity that no one can take from us. We have an identity that now finds living expression in all we do.

In Jesus you don't have to live your life constantly trying to prove yourself. That robs you of the joy of life. That kills your relationship because its not you but an image that we hide behind that people are presented with. That destroys the real you, the you that your heavenly Father has dreamed possible; his loved child, a chip off the old block. Our heavenly Father has dreamed so, so much for his children. His passion is that you become all he's

dreamed possible, not limited by what other limited people want you to do to gain their approval.

Isn't it great that in Jesus, through baptism, your conscience is clear. That means you're freed from living for approval. That's one of the greatest kill-

**Baptised:
death to the old Adam,
life now in Jesus.**

joys around. Before God, in Jesus, your conscience is clear, you are no longer manipulated by a guilty conscience, by a need to feel accepted. Rather in Jesus you live from the approval you already have. In Jesus you live from the acceptance you already have. That is what now shapes who we are and what we do.

Baptism has that powerful reality; where in Jesus we

die to sin, and in Jesus we rise to new life with God. Isn't that great, we are saved for new life with God, starting when?

We are living that life now. Through baptism, we are immersed in Jesus, so that we now live with him. In Jesus we now know Father. In Jesus we now have the Spirit. In Jesus we have been birthed into a new life, a new life knowing God for who he really is and knowing who we really are.

We are birthed into a new life, that we now live. Our faith isn't just about something that will happen in the future, but it shapes who we are and how we live, now. Through baptism we are birthed into a new life with God. A life of meaning and worth. A life of purpose. A life where we now live loved, or at least begin learning how to

live loved. And in Jesus that is our future.

When Jesus returns we will take a wonderful new step in living loved as we then live face to face with Jesus, with our Father, with the Spirit. What a blast that will be; living loved seeing Father's smile, hearing the warmth of his voice, enjoying being in Jesus presence, daily experiencing the loving energy of the Spirit. What a great new life we have begun.

In the reading from Mark we heard this message from John the Baptist; "The time promised by God has come at last! The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!" (Mark 1:15) The word 'Repent' reminds me that this new life we now live is a constant wrestle. There are so many things that want to distract me

from keeping focused on Jesus and all that he has accomplished.

Daily I repent, I stop and seek to remember what Jesus said, remember what Jesus has done so that I might continue living in it, continue living with him.

**Loved by Father;
Immersed in the Spirit.**

Of course that's how relationships work. Once you take the other person for granted you're in trouble. Once you let that relationship slip and become less and less important it is robbed of its fullness. So Jesus reminds us to repent; not because we are bad, but because he doesn't want us to miss out on all that he has won for us. Jesus doesn't want you to miss out on living loved; loved by

Father, immersed in the Spirit's loving presence. What a tragedy that would be.

In Jesus we are loved. Through baptism you have been adopted as Father's child. You have died to the old Adam and have been raised in Jesus to live out the new person you are. In Jesus you can live loved because you are. In Jesus you can live worthwhile

because in him you are of infinite worth to your heavenly Father. In Jesus you can live a purpose that reaches to eternity because your heavenly Father is now your purpose, and he's eternal.

In Jesus I'm not limited to simply what I can see or experience. Father has so, so much more instore. Way more that I could ever imagine or dream possible. Through baptism