



Make a Splash!

Devotion

“Make a splash” makes me think of Baptism. This might be the proper time to remember your own Baptism, or the Baptism of a special child in your life. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism forms and shapes the Christian life as each day the child of God repents, turns to Christ in faith, and lives in the newness of life by the Holy Spirit. It’s the heavenly washing, its benefits and powers, and the significance of being baptized with water that we remember every day.

Think about or discuss the following questions:

Who were your baptismal sponsors? If your sponsors are still living, what do they remember about the day?

Who baptized you? Was it a pastor? Do you have pictures marking this special day?

Do you display your baptismal certificate? If not, consider framing and displaying it proudly.

The sound of water in the act of baptizing can sound very ordinary ... but how powerful it is. *So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls* (Acts 2:41). Wow, can you imagine 3,000 baptisms in one day?! Three thousand souls received regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, *whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life* (Titus 3:6-7).

Dr. Stephen J. Carter writes in his book, *Witness to the Light*: “Every time a child, youth or adult is brought to the waters of Baptism, the sound of water announces grace, forgiveness, salvation, and a sending into the world. In a special sense, each person present in the fellowship of God’s people remembers the power and meaning of Baptism and reaffirms God’s sending, *‘Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit’* (Matthew 28:19). When the sounds of baptismal water are heard worldwide, Pentecost is happening over and over again as God’s Holy Spirit works through water and the Word proclaiming Jesus Christ as the crucified and risen Savior. Ordinary sounds with extraordinary life transforming power!”

Prayer: Almighty God, through the washing water with the Word, we are united with Christ Jesus in His death and resurrection. Grant that we, who have been baptized and redeemed from the old life of sin, may be renewed in Your Holy Spirit and live before You in righteousness and purity forever, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now, and forever. Amen.

All who believe and are baptized
Shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ,
They are a new creation;
Through Christ's redemption they will stand
Among the glorious heavenly band
Of every tribe and nation. ***LSB 601/ LW 225, verse 1***

Scripture references are from the ESV.

Make a Splash! by Virginia Von Seggern, Orchard, Nebraska
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