

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

Lectio Divina Guides by Bill Gaultiere

Lectio Divina Process

Hearing God's voice with confidence takes practice. A great way to learn is through Lectio Divina, a method of Scripture meditation developed by Benedict in the sixth century. Three times we read the Bible passage and then pray or journal quietly for a few minutes to help us listen to the Spirit. Each reading is guided by a focus question listed below. In a group context follow the leader's instructions to know when you can share your responses. Be sure to protect people's confidentiality.

Introduction to the Text

Jesus did not need to be baptized in water to be cleansed of sin and begin a new life in the way that we do, but still his Father asked him to do this. Why? It wasn't just to sanction a ritual. It was to encourage Jesus as he launched his public ministry and to show us the oneness of the Trinity. Jesus is the beloved Son of the Father, anointed by the Holy Spirit. *In Christ* you can be baptized, *immersed* in the Trinitarian presence. Then the Father says to *you*, "You are my beloved child and in you I am well pleased." The Holy Spirit remains on you. The heavens have been torn open—and *they never shut!* God's kingdom is here.

Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:32-34

Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John in the Jordan River. After all the people were baptized, Jesus waded into the water. John objected, "I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?"

But Jesus insisted, "It is right for you to baptize me. This is God's work fulfilling his good purposes from all of history." So John agreed.

Jesus was immersed in the baptismal waters and as soon as he came up the heavens were torn open and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove and landed on him. And a voice from the heavens proclaimed, "This is my beloved Son and in him I am well pleased!"

Later John gave testimony to what happened: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven like a dove and remain on Jesus. Before then I didn't know that Jesus was the Messiah, but God who sent me to baptize with water had told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down upon and remain is the one who will baptize people with the Holy Spirit.' I saw this happen! There is no question about it: *This is the Son of God!*" (paraphrased).

Prayer / Journaling / Soul Talk Prompts

1. What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? In silence meditate on that.
2. What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.
3. What is God's personal invitation to you from the Scripture? You can write down what the Lord may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or simply rest quietly in the Spirit's presence.