



2. THE INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Ghost.

John 3:3-8

³ Jesus answered and said to [Nicodemus], “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again [ἀνωθεν, lit. “from above”], he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

(Excerpt from the Gospel for Trinity Sunday, EHV)

THE TRINITY

1. In what three ways do we know there is a God?

Psalms 19:1: The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

Romans 2:15: [Men/people] show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them.

John 20:31: But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

2. The only way in which we know God is *good* and *merciful* is _____.

3. How do we know that God is triune?

Genesis 1:1,5: In the beginning **God** (אֱלֹהִים – Elohim) created the heavens and the earth...and the darkness **He** called Night.

Deuteronomy 6:4: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Numbers 6:24-26: The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Matthew 28:19: Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

4. Why is the doctrine of the Trinity so important?

John 17:3: And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

John 14:6: Jesus said "...No one comes to the Father except through me."

5. How do we compare to God? Who are we, naturally, in the sight of God?

Leviticus 19:2a: I, the Lord your God, am holy.

Isaiah 59:2: But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you,

1 Corinthians 2:14: But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Romans 5:12: Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

6. Can we come before God on our own merit?

Isaiah 6:1-5: In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
The whole earth is full of His glory!"

And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said:

"Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips,
And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;
For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts."

7. Why might it be important to open our worship **in the name of** the Triune God? What actually, are we saying?

BAPTISM

8. Jesus said “make disciples of all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” The Greek word *baptize* meant simply to _____. When God speaks of Baptism, it is not just water, but it is water...

9. What does it mean that we are baptized **in the name of** the Triune God?

Galatians 3:26-27: For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

10. Read the following passages. What blessings does baptism give?

Baptism effects _____, delivers from _____ and the _____, and gives _____ to all who believe this

Acts 2:38-39: Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

1 Peter 3:21: Baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (EHV)

Romans 6:3-4: Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

John 3:5-6: Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Mark 16:16: He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

11. How can water do these things?

Titus 3:5-8: According to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying.

Romans 11:27: For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.

Ephesians 5:25-26: Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, by cleansing her with the washing of water in connection with the Word.

12. Which is correct?

- Baptism is something you do for God.
- Baptism is something God does for you.

13. **Romans 6:4** explains the continuous nature of baptism. It isn't a one-time act, but a state of being:

"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Now that we have been made God's own child by Baptism, how do we "walk in newness of life"?

Ephesians 4:22, 24: Put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires... put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

1 Thessalonians 4:7: God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

Ezekiel 18:30: Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall.

14. What does it mean to "repent?"

Psalms 32:5: I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

2 Corinthians 7:10: For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Such baptizing with water means that the old Adam in us should, by daily contrition and repentance, be drowned and die with all sins and evil lusts; and that a new man daily come forth and arise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

(The Small Catechism: What Does Such Baptizing with Water Mean?)

READ: The Small Catechism on Baptism, **MEMORIZE:** The Primary Texts of Baptism from the Small Catechism