

Refrigerator4 Notes 10 January 2016
"A Blessing at the Fount" (Baptism of Our Lord)
Luke 3 15-17, 21-22

1. On this 2nd Epiphany Sunday, we celebrated the Lord's Baptism – on the 1st Sunday of Epiphany we celebrated and recognized Christ's Birth
2. In the season of Epiphany, we looked at those special events in Our Lord's life, which were manifested by the Holy Spirit
3. The Baptism of our Lord is reported in all four Gospels, but Luke version places the emphasis on the word or adjective 'beloved' which separates Luke from the other gospels by making our Lord's baptism a personal experience – "You are my Son. My Beloved. In thee I am well pleased."
4. The scripture paints the scene of the Spirit descending like a Dove – a metaphor describing how the Spirit descended upon our Lord (the HS is not a dove)
5. But the metaphor represents a blessing upon Jesus, the commissioning of Jesus' ministry if you will
6. In Luke's version of the baptism, Jesus is the last to be baptized and prays later, as the HS descends upon HIM
7. Luke's version implies that all who were present swathe HS descending and heard the voice of God (a point that is well debated by scholars, but never the less makes baptism a corpora issue as well)
8. What is significant in Luke's version was the fact our Lord prays after HIS baptism (which makes baptism a personal issue)
9. However, all the Gospels writers intended to make the baptism of Jesus God's approval of sacramental Baptism
10. What significance does Jesus' baptism holds for us?
11. Down through the ages, baptism has symbolized the new life in Christ that comes to all who believe and follow HIM
12. In baptism, one pledges to learn more about Jesus and submit your life to HIM
13. In order to accomplish the aforementioned, we must seek HIS forgiveness to gain HIS grace
14. Each time we witness someone else's baptism, it should be a reminder of your decision to follow Jesus
15. Baptism is not only a personal and corporate event (to be witness by the community of God's people), but it signifies the ministry that Christ has in store for us – if you don't know what your ministry is than you need to pray and ask God to share with you the ministry that you are to perform in the Church!
16. For us Presbyterians, baptism starts at the fount and comes with a blessing from God – to become new creatures.