

**PENTECOST 10 (2018)**  
**Mark 6**

**Holy Baptism - First**

*What is Baptism?*

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

*Which is that word of God?*

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "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)

**Holy Baptism - Second**

*What benefits does Baptism give?*

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

*Which are these words and promises of God?*

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)

**Mark 6:45–56** Immediately [Jesus] made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, for they all saw him and

were terrified. **But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”** And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

In the Name of Jesus.

‘Take heart!’ says Christ! ‘Be of good courage!’

But He, the text says, ‘meant to pass them by!’ Where was He going?

<sup>26</sup> And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. <sup>27</sup> And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ <sup>28</sup> But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” <sup>29</sup> Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” <sup>30</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three

times.”<sup>31</sup> But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same.

<sup>32</sup> And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.”<sup>33</sup> And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled.<sup>34</sup> And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.”<sup>35</sup> And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.<sup>36</sup> And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”<sup>1</sup>

Oh—THAT is where He was going.

**2** And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home.<sup>2</sup> And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them.<sup>3</sup> And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.<sup>4</sup> And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay.<sup>5</sup> And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”<sup>6</sup> Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts,<sup>7</sup> “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”<sup>8</sup> And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts?<sup>9</sup> Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say,

<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mk 14:26–36). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? <sup>10</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— <sup>11</sup> “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” <sup>12</sup> And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!” <sup>2</sup>

The text says that they could not understand—believe—have courage—take heart; for their hearts were hardened!

## LUTHER’S HIDDEN GOD AND REVEALED GOD!

<sup>35</sup> On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” <sup>36</sup> And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup> And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. <sup>38</sup> But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” <sup>39</sup> And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” <sup>41</sup> And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” <sup>3</sup>

Yes, they could not; but He could. His mind was on that: the grace of God.

<sup>2</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mk 2:1–12). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

<sup>3</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mk 4:35–41). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

## The first verse

**1** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.<sup>4</sup>

Yes. The Gospel is about HIM—not US! And we need never let anyone DEMOTE US from being disciples, children, little ones, still learning—just because they can be so scary!

Christ is our heart; His Baptism of us is our courage; our faith in Him has nothing at all to do with fear.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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<sup>4</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mk 1:1). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.