

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

- Matthew 3:13-17 (English Standard Version)

## Reflection

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- 1 Peter 2:9-10 (English Standard Version)

<sup>3</sup> ...Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup> You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; <sup>6</sup> and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

- Exodus 19:3-6 (English Standard Version)

Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ, not only for the solemn admission of the party baptized into the visible Church; but also to be unto him a sign and seal of the covenant of grace, of his ingrafting into Christ, of regeneration, of remission of sins, and of his giving up unto God, through Jesus Christ, to walk in the newness of life. Which sacrament is, by Christ's own appointment, to be continued in His Church until the end of the world.

- The Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 28 Of Baptism

# Sermon Outline

**Set Apart by God for Service**  
Matthew 3:13-17

*Our Highest Calling*  
Brad Anderson

**Through baptism, Jesus was set apart to serve...** (Matthew 3:13-14)

**How did Jesus understand his unique role of service?**

- He played a role that identified him with sinners. (Matthew 3:15)
- He played a role that was attested to by His Father. (Matthew 3:17)
- He played a role that was empowered by the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16)

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**In Jesus, we are set apart by God for service in every area of life.** (1 Peter 2:9-10)

- Like a chosen race...
- Like a royal priesthood...
- Like a holy nation...
- Like a people for his own possession...

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**How does our weekly service re-present the gospel at this point in the story? (Set Apart by God for Service in Every Area of Life)**

- Baptism / Membership Vows / Testimonies / Confessions of Faith
- Prayer (Pastoral or Prayers of the People)
- Offering / Announcements / Kids' Dismissal
- Prayer of Illumination
- In relationship with God...
  - Scripture Reading
  - Sermon
  - Lord's Supper
- Song / Hymn of Response

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