**“Remember Your Baptism”** Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**Introduction:** Have you ever felt like life is a mess? Maybe you’ve wanted a fresh start—a chance to leave your mistakes behind and begin again. It’s that feeling of wishing you could undo the things you regret and make things right. Thankfully and surprisingly, **in our sacrament of Baptism, we are claimed as a new creation in Christ so we can start a new life.**

**Why Was Jesus Baptized?** In Luke 3, we see him coming to John to be baptized. But John’s baptism was for repentance, why would Jesus, who was sinless, need to be baptized? Jesus’ baptism wasn’t about repentance. It was about solidarity. Jesus came to stand with us in our brokenness, showing that God isn’t distant from our struggles. He’s right here with us. When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened, the Holy Spirit descended like a dove, and God’s voice said, “***You are my Son, whom I love; with you, I am well pleased.”*** This was a moment of divine affirmation and the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry.

**Baptism: A Starting Point in the Journey:** Baptism is a covenant with God, where we are claimed as God's beloved sons and daughters. Through baptism, we are assured of God's unconditional love and the cleansing of our sins because Jesus took our place on the cross and offered His life for our redemption. This marks the beginning of our journey of salvation, but it’s not the end.Being baptized doesn’t mean our lives instantly change completely. Although we are baptized, we still wrestle with sin in our thoughts and actions. This doesn't mean God abandons us or that salvation is a free pass to continue in sin. Instead, we are assured that the Spirit works in us, leading and guiding us to love and live in God. we are empowered to love like God loves. This love transforms our hearts and actions, making us more like Christ every day. **God’s love not only saves us but also shapes us to live lives that glorify God. Salvation is the ongoing process of sanctification. Baptism marks the start of a lifelong journey of grace and discipleship.**

**What Does Baptism Mean for Us?**

1) baptism is about cleansing. It washes away our sins and gives us a fresh start.

2) baptism is about identity. It’s when God says to us, *You are my beloved child.*

*3)* baptism is a covenant, a promise that God will never leave us. He gives us his Spirit to guide us, strengthen us, and help us grow.

**Remembering baptism:** We recall the symbol of water as a sign of cleansing and renewal. Also, the symbol of Holy Spirit who empowers us to live as God’s children. We are called to becoming more like Christ. However, it’s not always easy, wewish we could go back to the past, to the moments we regret, and start over. We all know we can’t undo what’s already been done. But what we can do is allow God to make our past new. That’s what remembering our baptism is like **—we can’t change what happened, but we can let our past become a new foundation for a new life in Christ.**

When we come to Christ, our past no longer has the power to imprison us. Mistakes, failures, and regrets lose their grip because Jesus has set us free through His sacrifice on the cross. As Romans 8:1 declares, ***“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*** Our identity is no longer defined by what we’ve done but by what Christ has done for us. Instead of being a prison, our past becomes a classroom where God teaches, heals, and uses us for God’s glory. Each experience—whether joyful or painful—offers opportunities to grow. Through failures, we learn humility and reliance on God. Through struggles, we discover His strength. Through mistakes, we understand forgiveness and grace.

Paul’s life illustrates this truth. Once a persecutor of Christians, Paul didn’t let his past disqualify him. Instead, he pressed forward, saying in **Philippians 3:13-14, *“*I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. The goal I pursue is the prize of God’s upward call in Christ Jesus.*”*** God turned Paul’s past into a platform for ministry, showing how He can redeem and use anyone. God doesn’t leave us in our brokenness. God heals our wounds, redeems our pain, and equips us to serve others.

In baptism, God takes our brokenness and makes it part of God’s redemption story. Baptism is a new beginning. Baptism reminds us that our past doesn’t define us—God does. So, if you’re feeling stuck—if you’re carrying shame, regret, or the weight of your past—let me remind you of this truth: No matter what you’ve been through, God is not finished with you. God is always working to make something beautiful out of the messes we give God.

**God not only forgives but also transforms our past, making it new. Like a loving artist, God takes the messy and painful parts of our past and transforms them into a beautiful background, giving them a new context that brings meaning and hope to our present and future.** Let the Spirit lead you into a new chapter—one filled with light, purpose, and hope. God’s not done with you yet. Your story isn’t over. In fact, it’s just beginning.

 Remember your baptism in the name of Jesus! **Remember your baptism in the Holy Spirit and be thankful**.

**Practical Reflection:** This week, I encourage you to:

* Be thankful for Jesus’ love.
* Recommit yourself to living as a child of God.
* Let go of regrets and embrace the fresh start God offers you every day.