

FLOWING WATER, LIVING WORD:

A BAPTISMAL JOURNEY OF DISCERNING GOD'S MISSION
FOR THE CENTRAL STATES

LENT 3: SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING - YOU ENLIGHTEN US

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SUSTAIN YOUR CHILD WITH THE GIFT OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT: THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL AND MIGHT, THE SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE FEAR OF THE LORD, THE SPIRIT OF JOY IN YOUR PRESENCE, BOTH NOW AND FOREVER.

HOLY BAPTISM, ELW PG. 230

Baptism is a gift. It's a means of the free gift of grace, it's a gift of community, it's a gift of revelation. Still, even as the baptized, we live in the world as it is, with all its brokenness. But when sealed by the Holy Spirit, we are freed to imagine the world as it ought to be, as it could be. God guides us in our imagining, both on our own and within our relationships. As we wonder about and reflect on what God is doing in the world, we can draw on the promises made to us in baptism, promises of presence and discernment.

1 Corinthians 2:10-13: ¹⁰These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Questions for Reflection

- How are you being "taught" by the Spirit? What have you learned?
- Think back to the last baptism you witnessed. What moved you the most? How is that Spirit emboldening you now?
- How have you seen the Holy Spirit working in your community? How might you be called to participate?

Prayer

REVEALING GOD, IN BAPTISM YOU PROMISE TO INSTILL IN US YOUR SPIRIT. MAKE US RESPONSIVE TO THE MOVEMENT OF THAT SPIRIT AND AWARE OF ITS WORK IN THIS WORLD. GRANT US, AGAIN, WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING IN OUR DISCERNMENT, SO THAT WE MIGHT MORE CLEARLY ENVISION THE WORLD AS YOU HAVE INTENDED IT. WE PRAY THIS IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, TEACHER AND SAVIOR. AMEN

AMEN