

Sunday Morning 01-06-19 Pastor Elshout

Pre-service Psalter 10:1, 3 (standing)

Silent Congregational Prayer

Votum and Salutation

Psalter 336:1, 2

Reading of the Law: Deuteronomy 5:1-24

Response to the Law: Psalter 428:1

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3

Congregational Prayer

Psalter 112: All (offering)

Text: Matthew 3:15-17

Theme: The Baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ

1. The reason: To fulfill all righteousness

2. The result: The heavens were opened

3. The testimony: This is My Beloved Son

Prayer

Psalter 109: All (offering)

Doxology: Psalter 196

Benediction

Family Sermon Discussion Questions:

1*. Why did Jesus come to John to be baptized of him (cf. John 1:31)?

2. What connection is there between John's baptism of Jesus and the requirements of the ceremonial law regarding the public ordination of priests?

3. What is the deep significance of Jesus' words to John, "For thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness"?

4. How do the words "the heavens were opened to HIM" direct us to the essence of Christ's coming into the world?

5. Why was the Spirit's descent upon Jesus of great significance for Him?

6.* How does the account of Jesus' baptism yield one of the clearest proofs in the NT regarding the Trinity?

7. What do the words "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" reveal about God the Father?

8. What connection is there between the Father's declaration and the Holy Spirit's saving work in the hearts of sinners?

Sunday Evening 01-06-19 Pastor Elshout

Pre-service Psalter 13:5, 7 (standing)
Silent Congregational Prayer
Votum and Salutation
Psalter 213:1-4

Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:1-23
Reading of: *The Apostles Creed*
Congregational Prayer
Psalter 321: All (offering)
Text: Matthew 13:1-9; 18:23

Theme: The Parable of the Sower

1. *The seed which fell by the wayside*
2. *The seed which fell into stony places*
3. *The seed which fell among thorns & thistles*
4. *The seed which fell into good ground*

Prayer
Psalter 384:1, 2, 5 (offering)
Doxology: Psalter 197
Benediction

Family Sermon Discussion Questions:

- 1.* What is meant by the expression that Jesus' parables are earthly stories with a heavenly meaning?
2. Who is the sower in this parable, and what does he sow?
3. What is the significance of Jesus saying that Satan takes away the seed that has been sown *into the heart* of the wayside hearer?
4. What sort of people did Jesus have in mind when speaking of the stony ground hearer?
5. What circumstances cause the growth of the stony ground hearer to wither and die?
6. What are the "thorns and thistles" that choke the Word of God?
7. How can we tell whether someone is a good ground hearer?
- 8.* What is the dramatic difference between the good ground hearer and all the other hearers identified in this parable?

* Questions for younger children