

A New Heart and a New Spirit

Ezekiel 36:24-28

“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”

During the Service of Holy Baptism, we pray an extraordinary prayer. It is known as Luther’s “Flood Prayer.” Listen for it. It starts, “Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood...” Listen for all the ways God used water to cleanse and save His people.

Before our Baptism, we were dead in our sins. Our hearts were stone, and we were going to hell. However, God washed us clean and made us alive in Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, He took our heart of stone and gave us a living heart.

Before our Baptisms, we were alone. Our sinful nature divided us from God, our families and our neighbors. The Old Adam is a loner. Jesus brings us together and unites us as God’s family. We have brothers and sisters in Christ that speak different languages, eat different food and sing different songs, but we are one body because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.

God cleanses us. Without this cleansing, we would continue living in our sin. However, we are now God’s people because we are washed clean.

Seek and Find

- The processional cross
- The baptismal shell
- All the different people brought together by Baptism

Think About It

Do you know why the shell is a symbol of Baptism? The shell has been used as a symbol for Baptism since the early Christian church for a simple reason: pastors used it to scoop the water onto the head of the person being baptized.

Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the light, even Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

