

GOD ANNOUNCES HIS GOOD NEWS

Mark 1:11 “And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

At the conclusion of the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist God spoke His message from heaven concerning Jesus. God said, “You are my beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.” (Mark 1:11) These words from God’s own lips and voice announced to the world who Jesus is. Jesus is God’s one and only Son, much loved by God who was pleased to send His Son into the world as its Savior.

Much like the President of the United States is inaugurated into office to officially serve, that day God publicly inaugurated Jesus into His public servant ministry. He sent Jesus to battle and overcome sin, death and the Devil. He placed Jesus into His saving work to rescue all who were captives of sin, afflicted with death and overpowered by the devil.

Through these words God left nothing to chance. Through these words God declared that Jesus, and no one else, is His “beloved Son.” Through these words God declared the relationship of Jesus to Himself, Son to Father and Father to Son. Thus, God was declaring that Jesus was equal to God. This relationship is absolutely necessary for God’s plan of salvation Jesus was sent to carry out.

God said of Jesus that not only was He God’s Son, but that it was in and with Jesus He was well pleased. The words with which God said this of His Son Jesus are timeless. God is well pleased with Jesus from eternity to eternity. Jesus, His Son, perfectly lives out His Son relationship with His Father. God was putting His stamp of approval on Jesus’ saving work.

God’s announcement meant Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled in His Son Jesus. Isaiah wrote, “Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations . . . Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: “I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners

from the dungeon from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.” (Isaiah 42:1,5-8) At His baptism Jesus began His work as the Lord’s suffering Servant for your eternal benefit.

Prayer: Thank You, my Heavenly Father for sending Your Son Jesus as my Savior from sin and the way to heaven. In His name. Amen.

To Jordan came the Christ, our LORD, To do His Father’s pleasure;
Baptized by John, the Father’s Word Was given us to treasure.
This heav’nly washing now shall be A cleansing from transgression
And by His blood and agony Release from death’s oppression,
A new life now awaits us.

O hear and mark the message well, For God Himself has spoken.
Let faith, not doubt, among us dwell And so receive this token.
Our LORD here with His Word endows Pure water, freely flowing.
God’s Holy Spirit here avows Our Kinship while bestowing
The Baptism of His blessing.

These truths on Jordan’s banks were shown By mighty word and wonder.
The Father’s voice from heav’n came down, Which we do well to ponder:
“This man is My beloved Son, In whom My heart has pleasure.
Him you must hear, and Him alone, And trust in fullest measure
The word that He has spoken.”

There stood the Son of God in love, His grace to us extending;
The Holy Spirit like a dove Upon the scene descending;
The triune God assuring us, With promises compelling,
That in our Baptism He will thus Among us find a dwelling
To comfort and sustain us.
(LSB 407, vv 1-4)