

*Christ, you made your light shine on us  
by revealing yourself, grant us the spirit  
of humble service to all people.*

*Christ, you humbled yourself  
and received baptism from your servant  
to show us the way of humility, grant us the spirit  
of humble service to our fellow men.*

*Christ, through your baptism you cleansed us  
of every blemish and made us children  
of your Father, bestow your spirit of adoption  
on all who seek you.*

*Christ, through baptism you have consecrated  
creation and opened the door of repentance  
to all who prepare for baptism,  
make us servants of your Gospel in the world.*

*Christ, through your baptism  
you revealed to us the Holy Trinity  
when the Father called you his beloved Son  
and the Holy Spirit came down upon you,  
renew the spirit of adoption  
among the royal priesthood of the baptized.*

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## **S1: BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

*On Baptism, the Baptism of Jesus,  
and the Efficacy of the Sacraments*

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### **SCRIPTURE**

#### **Isaiah 42:1**

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased. Upon him I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations.

#### **Psalms 29:3**

The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over the mighty waters.

#### **Matthew 3:13-17**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”



## Venture Forward in Faith

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### CATECHISM SELECTIONS ON BAPTISM

The symbolism of water signifies the Holy Spirit's action in Baptism, since after the invocation of the Holy Spirit it becomes the efficacious sacramental sign of new birth: just as the gestation of our first birth took place in water, so the water of Baptism truly signifies that our birth into the divine life is given to us in the Holy Spirit.

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (*vitae spiritualis ianua*), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water and in the word."

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### THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

An efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit.

<u>INITIATION</u>	<u>HEALING</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
Baptism	Reconciliation	Marriage
Confirmation	Anointing	Holy Orders
Eucharist		

The fruit of all the sacraments belongs to all the faithful. All the sacraments are sacred links uniting the faithful with one another and binding them to Jesus Christ, and above all Baptism, the gate by which we enter into the Church.

## S1: Baptism of the Lord

On Baptism, the Baptism of Jesus, and the Efficacy of Sacraments

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### ST. THOMAS AQUINAS ON THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

The whole teaching and work of John was in preparation for Christ: just as it is the duty of the servant... to prepare the matter for the form accomplished by the [master]. Therefore the baptism of John did not confer grace, but only prepared the way for grace.

*Christ was baptized,  
not that He might be cleansed,  
but that He might cleanse.*

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### CATECHISM ON THE EFFICACY OF THE SACRAMENTS

The Greek word *μυστήριον* was translated into Latin by two terms: *mysterium* and *sacramentum*. In later usage the term *sacramentum* emphasizes the visible sign of the hidden reality of salvation which was indicated by the term *mysterium*. In this sense, Christ himself is the mystery of salvation: "For there is no other mystery of God, except Christ."

Celebrated worthily in faith, the sacraments confer the grace that they signify. **They are efficacious because in them Christ himself is at work:** it is *he* who baptizes, *he* who acts in his sacraments in order to communicate the grace that each sacrament signifies.

*As fire transforms into itself everything it touches,  
so the Holy Spirit transforms into the divine life  
whatever is subjected to his power.*