

## **Baptism of The Lord 2022**

### **“Power & Love (Remembering Who & Whose We Are)”**

#### **GETTING STARTED**

- Do you have any nicknames?
  - What does it mean/say to you when someone uses one of them toward you?
- Have you ever “heard” GOD’s Voice?
  - If so, what did it “sound like”?
  - \*What did it “say” to you?
  - \*How did you “know” that it was The LORD speaking?
- What, do you believe, baptism is meant to convey?
  - If you have been baptized, how has/does it shape your life?

#### **Isaiah 43:1-7**

- Discuss what it means to be “redeemed”.
- Why/how are names so important (especially in ancient cultures)?
- How does enduring difficulty shape people?
  - Biblically speaking, how ought it?
- Consider vs. 3-7 of this passage & talk about:
  - \*How this relates to Epiphany.
  - \*Why GOD’s “chosen” people were scattered to the 4 points of the compass.
  - \*What it means to share a name with others.

#### **Psalms 29**

- If the “mighty ones” (or “heavenly beings”) are called to give GOD praise, what is the message to us?
- Describe the activities of The LORD’s Voice here (what are the purposes & character of what it accomplishes).
- Why/how would water have been both feared & revered in the ancient, Middle Eastern world?
- -What, then, does GOD’s dominion over it mean?

#### **Luke 3:15-22**

- Discuss the difference between John’s type of baptism & that prophesied about the coming Messiah.
  - Why/how would the political, religious & cultural tensions of the time have been significant to this scene?
- Compare & contrast the images/functions of water vs. fire here.
- Why, do you think, Luke places the mention of John upsetting Herod smack in the middle of this passage?
- What is important about Jesus being baptized (by his cousin, John) at the same time, in the same place, in the same way as “all the people”?
- Talk about the moment when The Holy Spirit descended on Christ...
  - \*What was he doing & why is that important?
  - \*What is the meaning of The Spirit coming as a dove & the phrase, “the heavens being opened”?
  - \*What was GOD’s Voice conveying?

#### **IN CLOSING**

- Do you see any connections between this week’s Texts?
  - If so, what?

Describe the role(s) of LIBERATION & LOVE in our passages.