**Scripture Reading:** Selections from Ps. 78

**Singing:** 347:1-4 – 415:8, 10 – 214:1, 3, 4, 6 – 431:3-6

**God’s Token of Baptism (2)**

I. What it does not communicate.

II. What it does communicate

Review of Point I and IIa

A. Baptism doesn’t communicate salvation – regeneration – pardon

B. Baptism communicates *God’s Gospel message to support His Word*

 1. What is the *promise* of Gospel? (Acts 10:43; Ps. 32:5; Luke 15:21;

 Romans 5:1; Gal. 3:26)

 2. Baptism is God’s testimony to *believers of truth of His promise* (q. 73)

C. Baptism communicates a related message to *seed of Church* (q. 74)

D. Children: *What did God say to you when you were baptized?* (see q. 74)

 1. Listen to *baptism formula: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I as Triune God baptize you*

 a. you as children are *included in God’s Church* as Jews were

 included in Israel: Romans 3: 1-3 & 9:3-5

b. what happens when *a child is legally adopted by new parents?*

 c. this is God’s own picture: Ezekiel 16

 d. this is God’s own speaking: Ps. 81:10; Exodus 20:1-17; Conf. 34

 2. Sadly: *many adoptions ended in rebellious rejection* (Ps. 78)

 a. picture *young boy/man Korah*

● he trampled on the LORD’s love: Ps. 78:10, 11

 ● He saddened God: Ps. 81:13

 ● He maddened God: Ps. 78:17-25; 40-41

 b. God warns us in the 3rd about *bearing His Name* with honor!

 ● read LORD’s fierce warning in Deut. 4:23-31

**In summary**: *What does God say to you children in baptism?*

A. The same as He says in His Word: *the Gospel Door is open and I am ready*

 *to receive you*

B. To counter our doubts about *the personal application of those promises*

 *to you,* God testified with a *personal token*

1. make wisely use of this *privilege* to plead with God on basis of

 His own commitment to you

 2. follow David in Ps. 86:1 *Preserve my soul:* ***for I am holy!***

 3. or the Jews in Babylon: Is. 64:8 & 63:18

 - But now, O LORD, thou are our father; we are the clay,

and thou our potter; and we are all the work of thy hand

 - We are thine; thou never bearest rule over them: they

 were not called by thy name

**Discussion Questions**

1. *Discuss the following three sayings on God’s promises.*

*a. Men many times eat their own words, but God will never eat His. (Thomas Brooks)*

 *b. Mercy in the promise is as the apple in the seed. (W. Gurnall)*

 *c. What God has promised we may ask with full assurance of faith*

 *to receive. (A. Pink)*

2. *Why is remembering our baptism date a good custom, especially for our children?*

*3. What is the connection between our (infant) baptism and confession of faith?*

4. *While the privilege of being in God’s covenant cannot be esteemed too highly, it can lead to a fatal resting short of salvation. How must we avoid this error?*

*5. Many parents, to avoid the error of presumption, have minimized the solemnity of ‘being sanctified in Christ’ (as our Baptism Form states). Why is that approach also harmful?*

**Questions for the Children**

1. *Have you asked your parents the date of your baptism?*

2. *Why does baptism not save you?*

3. *May you point to your ‘baptized forehead’ when you seek God in prayer?*