
All-Age-Thoughts on 'The Baptismal Covenant'

::: ZERO :::

*“Grace to you and PEACE from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

1 Co 1:3. (NRSV)

::: Amen.

::: ONE :::

Dear little, younger and older Sisters
dear little, younger and older Brothers,

This is quite an experience today, I think.

And this is a very special service we're celebrating today.

We have baptized Greta, many of you have remembered their baptism—in very different ways.

::: TWO :::

Yesterday, we had a Peace Church Special ‘Picnic and Games in the Park’.

And my daughter Aylin had joined me. When she saw the baptismal font outside, she of course asked me whether this was a pool for the hot weather.

I said, no. This is for our baptism and baptism service. I told her that Greta would be baptized and other will remember their baptism—maybe even with immersing.

Immersing..., hmm, can the little child swim?

And I replied that Greta would not be immersed. So, no worries.

::: THREE :::

But later, at home, I thought about her question.

I know that swimming is not a very biblical imagery. Interestingly I remembered the happening at the Sea of Tiberias.

The disciples saw Jesus and Peter just put on his garment and, 'threw himself into the water'.

It's not said how he reached the shore, but I assume he swam.

::: FOUR :::

And I think baptism is a little bit like being risking to dive into the water, knowing that Jesus won't let you drown, but will teach you to swim.

As we baptize our children, right from the beginning Jesus can teach them to swim and never lets them drown.

Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote about baptism. And he knew: Water is cleansing, but it is also dangerous.

He used this image of a person drowning but then being saved, kind of resurrected by Jesus, as Jesus was resurrected. It is the beginning of a new life.

∴ FIVE ∴

This is, what we celebrate today: In Jesus we are brought to a new life, everlasting life.

And with him we learn to swim. In his love he will keep us save, even when the waves go high.

He will never let go of us. Never.

It's like we are a community, a fellowship of swimmers in God's love.

And this fellowship with God in Jesus Christ, and with each other, we go on celebrating in the Holy Communion,...

which binds us together with God and with each other—in the Baptismal Covenant.

∴ Amen.