

The Baptism of Christ



Stained Glass Inc. Panel 10142:
Bright Light Baptism

BAPTISM

While every moment Christ spent on earth was important, there are several events that are considered particularly crucial in the Christian faith. One of these is **Christ's baptism** by **John the Baptist** in the **Jordan River**. The story has been the inspiration for many stained glass artists. Jesus stained glass windows showing **His baptism** not only commemorate the beginning of the Savior's public ministry, but also remind the faithful of the significance of the sacrament. To this day, this symbolic washing away of sin through the use of water is practiced with newborn infants and those who choose to be born again.

THE STORY OF CHRIST'S BAPTISM

Every Christian is familiar with the story of **Christ's birth**, but very little is known about His childhood and early adulthood. It was **His baptism in the Jordan River** at the age of 30 that marked His emergence to public life as a priest. Accounts of this important rite of initiation are found in the Bible in the **Gospels of Luke, Matthew, and Mark**. **John the Baptist** was a prophet of God who helped prepare the people for the coming of Jesus, urging them to be baptized so they could be cleansed of their sins. Jesus approached **John the Baptist** and



Stained Glass Inc. Panel
2364: *Baptism at the River Jordan*

THE STORY OF CHRIST'S BAPTISM CONTINUED

asked the messenger to baptize Him, but John felt he was not worthy, saying Jesus should be the one to baptize him. After receiving words of reassurance from Jesus, John led Him into the river and performed the baptism.

When **Christ** emerged from the cleansing waters, a miraculous event occurred. The heavens opened and the **Holy Spirit** descended from above. The voice of the **Father** spoke these words: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." When these words were uttered John knew that Jesus was indeed the Messiah he had been told of. John shared the good news with those who gathered to hear him speak, telling the crowds that Jesus was the Lamb of God.

The revelation of **Jesus as the Savior** after His baptism and the fulfillment of John's holy mission on earth certainly constitute a joyous and inspirational event in the Bible, so it is little wonder that it has been depicted by many creators of both modern and medieval stained glass windows.

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