

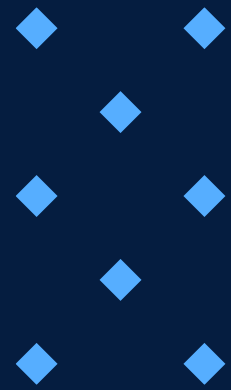
THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



THE ORIGINS OF BAPTISM

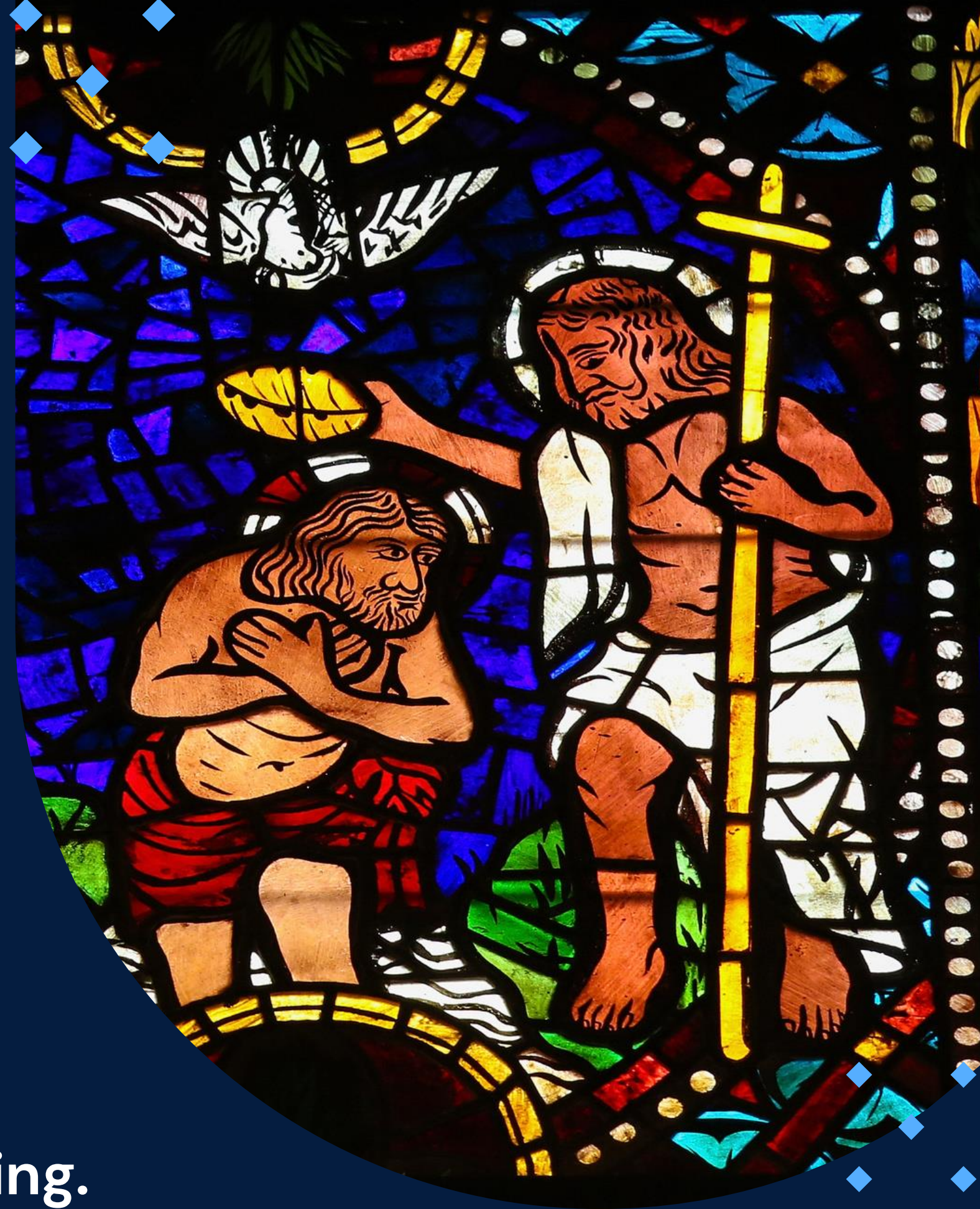
Baptism has its roots in the Jewish rituals of purification that were a part of worship at the temple in Jerusalem. It was common for Jews to be summoned to waters for purification.

The ritual called **mikveh** was a Jewish practice involving immersion in a body of water in order to cleanse oneself from any ritual impurity. It was a required act priests before entering the temple, for people who had touched a dead body, for men after a discharge of semen, and women after their menstruation. Gentile (non-Jews) converting to Judaism were also baptized (literally: immersed) as part of their initiation into the Jewish faith.



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The act of Baptism is deceptively simple but in a handful of water, there is a deep well of mystery and meaning.



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

“Baptism is
a sign and seal
of the covenant of grace
made by God through Jesus
and extended to us”

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

“In Baptism,
GOD CLAIMS US
as beloved children and
CALLS US
to lives of Christian discipleship.”

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

“Through Baptism
we share in Christ’s
DEATH AND RESURRECTION
and become members of
CHRIST’S BODY, THE CHURCH,
a community of Christ’s followers.”

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

“The practice of Baptism
affirms that we are
WASHED CLEAN FROM SIN
as we renounce the power of evil
and seek the will and way of God.”

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

“In Baptism
we receive the anointing of
THE HOLY SPIRIT
who empowers us with
GIFTS FOR MINISTRY
in the church and world.”

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

“Baptism marks us as
CHRIST’S OWN
forever.”

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

“Baptism is primarily
about **GOD’S ACTION**, not our response.

The Baptism of infants and children
expresses our faith in **GOD’S GRACIOUS INITIATIVE**
the belief that **GOD CHOOSES** and **CLAIMS US**
even **BEFORE** we have the capacity
to choose or claim our own faith in God.”

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

“The Baptism of believers
expresses our calling
to **RESPOND** with faithfulness
to **THE GIFT OF FAITH** we have received.
An adult or young adult declares his or her intent
to **TRUST** in **CHRIST**
and **LIVE** as **CHRIST’S DISCIPLE.**”

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

“In baptism,
we are washed with water,
A SIGN OF THE CLEANSING OF SIN
AND THE RENEWAL OF LIFE
we receive through Christ.”

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

“in the Reformed tradition
baptism is a **corporate** or **communal** event
not a private occasion or family affair
but one that is witnessed and celebrated
by the whole church in the presence of God.”

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

“Baptized in Christ Jesus,
we are **DEAD** to the power of death and sin
and **ALIVE** to the promise of the gospel
and the hope of everlasting and abundant life.”

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

“Although Baptism is
A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EVENT
whether in infancy or adulthood
the significance of Baptism
continues to unfold
throughout our lives.”

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

**“In Baptism
we renounce the powers of sin,
oppression, and death, and
“PLEDGE OUR ALLEGIANCE”
TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE IN CHRIST
a way of justice, righteousness, and peace”**
