

# THE GIFT

## That Keeps on Giving



Sermon by  
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Isaiah 61:10 - 62:5

### **The Gift That Keeps on Giving Sermon Notes Isaiah 61:10-62:5**

In this Christmas season, we should constantly be brought back to core truth that Christ himself is the greatest gift from God. This is the nature of God – He is self-giving. He is endlessly generous in giving of himself to us. While Christ himself is the Great gift, Christ also desires to give us many other things, other gifts of his grace. All of his gifts are means whereby we experience greater depths of his saving grace. One of those gifts focused on in this week's homily is baptism. Baptism is itself a gracious gift of God which paints many pictures of God's saving grace. In our homily, we look at a few of those gifts, those pictures of salvation, that Christ gives us in and through baptism.

Our text comes from Isaiah which is pointing to Israel's salvation. Because of our faith in Christ, Christ now grafts us in to the family of God (Israel) so that these gifts are now also for us. Our homily draws the connections between Isaiah's multifaceted picture of salvation and correlates that to the multifaceted picture of salvation in baptism.

1. Before diving into Isaiah's text, do this little exercise of recalling as many pictures of salvation from Scripture that you can think of. One place you can start is by going to Luke 15. You'll find 3 pictures of God's salvation there. Another picture comes from Genesis 22 with Abraham and Isaac. Think of other ways in which God has shown examples, or pictures, of His salvation.
2. The first picture in our text from Isaiah is from verse 61:10 – a robe of righteousness. Think about the ways in which the covering of a robe signifies God's salvation. How might that picture become even more clear when thinking that this is not just a robe, but a robe of *righteousness*? Ponder the connections to Luke 15 with the prodigal son story. The early Christians would take the newly baptized and cover them with white robes when they emerged from the waters. What might this signify?

3. The second picture is a burning torch. (62:1) Think about Jesus' teachings that involve light. (John 8, 9:1-5, Matthew 5:14-16, etc.) How might this be a picture of salvation? Reflect on the meaning of giving the newly baptized a lit candle.
  
4. The final picture is that we are given a new name. (62:2) Read Matthew 3:13-16. Consider the implications of what the Father says about Jesus as he emerges from baptism. As followers of Jesus, we are united to, with, and in Christ. Our baptism is a sharing in his baptism. Therefore, consider the implications of the Father declaring that you are His child, and that He is will pleased with you.

