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When I was looking at the passage in Luke I was struck with the fact that Jesus was baptized. The more I thought about the baptism of Jesus the more I began to understand. Jesus' baptism was a visible sign of his public ministry. He identified himself with the people who had flocked to the Jordan River. By wading into the waters with them Jesus took his place among them.

Every person on earth who has been called from darkness into light is part of the royal priesthood. The word "people" is a translation of "laos" from which we get "laity" All of God's laity are priests. The royal priesthood is composed entirely of the laity of God. God's laity is His clergy. The word "clergy" is from "kleros" which means "heritage." This is the word used in I Peter 5:3 where the elders, or bishops, are instructed not to lord it over God's heritage. The heritage is equated with the flock of God. The word of God does not separate clergy or laity. Ministry is not something done to the church, but what the church does only God can make us ministers. The church is missionary more aptly we are missionaries when we spread the Good News. (Concordance)

John Calvin stressed the fact that the ministry in its many aspects should be done by a variety of gifted people, the gifts, which God has given each and every one of us. Calvin calls this the priesthood of all believers consists. Martin Luther insisted that every

believer was a priest, with access to God. He did not call for the elimination of the role of pastors but believed that all people, not just pastors, had a priestly function.

Summing this all up I understand Luke's Gospel to be about vocation and calling.

Baptism by water and the baptism by fire are indicators that Jesus is the Messiah who has come to stand with his people. Baptism is the harbinger to the ministry and relationship Jesus will have with God's people.

My vocation, call...

Listen, listen can you hear it? Can you hear the spirit moving over the seas, in the tress, in the storms and in the hearts of all people (listen)? This was my first thought when I read psalm 29 it's about listening. Listening to hear God all around, listening to hear wisdom, listening to hear the beloved. Love in psalm 29 calls each and every one of us to walk into proclaiming the gospel. We are to use our voices to fight for truth because we have the beloved with us and near us.

We are all called into ministry having Jesus as our example and fellow traveler. Ministry and vocation aren't just about what you do in the church it's about what you do in the world. It's about how well you listen to the voice of love, how you love, and how you share love.

The two readings for today speak so beautifully about our mission as Christians. How we are led by the Spirit not just in flame but through nature and the gift of listening. Open your hearts to listen to what God is telling you and let the work begin. Listen, listen can you hear it? Can you hear the Spirit moving over the seas, in the trees, in the storms and in the hearts of all people (listen)?

God of grace and glory,
you call us with your voice of flame
to be your people, faithful and courageous.
As your beloved Son
embraced his mission in the waters of baptism,
inspire us with the fire of your Spirit
to join in his transforming work.
Amen. (Out in Scripture)