



H2Oh!

# Everyday FAITH Family Page

## Law/Gospel

The world tries to convince me that my eternal hope is a sham and that this life is all there is. **In the face of the world's lies, Jesus, through John's vision, assures me of the reality of my eternal home: a paradise without darkness or night where I, together with all those who believe in Christ, will reign forever with the Lamb who was slain.**

## Bible Words

And this is the promise that He made to us—eternal life.  
1 John 2:25

## Fun Facts

- John wrote the New Testament Gospel with his name, three epistles, and Revelation.
- Jesus called John and his brother James to follow Him at the Sea of Galilee, leaving behind the family fishing business and their father Zebedee.
- Early Church Fathers also identify John the apostle as John the elder, John of Patmos, and the beloved disciple in the Gospel of John.

## Living H2Oh! The River of Life

Revelation 22:1–5

**M**ore than any other book in the Bible, the Book of Revelation confuses and intrigues Christians. Its apocalyptic images may seem strange or even disturbing, but the picture of heaven, the new Jerusalem, offers much comfort.

The apostle John describes heaven as a real, physical place, a city with streets, gates, and houses. Real, flesh-and-blood people worship God and the Lamb in perfect bodies resurrected on the Last Day.

Two images from the garden of Eden in Genesis repeat in this new city, a river and a tree of life (Genesis 2:9–10). The river flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb and the tree of life grows by the river. Because of what Jesus accomplished on the tree of Calvary, those living in God's holy city receive unimpeded and perpetual access to this life-giving water and immortal food.

Jesus called the water He gives a spring "welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14). In this world, the waters of Baptism give forgiveness of sin and new life (Acts 2:38). The body and blood of Christ received as food in the Lord's Supper give eternal life (John 6:27, 35, 53–58). How much more will these gifts bless those who believe in Jesus in heaven!

## Marked by His Name

In the new Jerusalem, the Lamb's servants are marked as His, with His name on their foreheads. This reminds us of our baptismal liturgy: "Receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified" (*LSB*, p. 268).

In Baptism, we receive the triune name of God, poured on us with water, the water of life. We are marked as belonging to Christ for all eternity.

## Prayer

*Holy Lamb of God, forgive our sins and bring us into the new city of Jerusalem to live with You forever. In Your name we pray. Amen.*

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