The ordinance of Baptism declares that God in Christ is willing and ready to receive and to teach sinners. Therefore Baptism has been rightly called "a visible Gospel for the world."

The Lord's Supper exhibits Christ as the support and joy—the bread and the wine—of His people; but Baptism belongs to sinners, who need cleansing as sinners, and teaching as disciples or learners.

Water is the symbol of teaching as well as of cleansing. "He that watereth shall be watered," is evidently "he that teacheth shall be taught." The Hebrew verb used in Psalm 25 : 8, which is translated "will teach" or "will instruct," is literally "will sprinkle," or "will water, sinners in the way." And the proper, exact, and literal translation of the clause in Hebrews 6 : 2, which is rendered "of the doctrine of baptisms," is "of the baptizings of teaching."

The "great commission" is to disciple all nations, baptizing them—filling them, perfecting them, or purifying them—into the Name of the Triune God, teaching them to observe all things that Christ has commanded.

Baptismal water is the sign
That sin needs cleansing Grace;
While, at the feast of bread and wine,
Believers find their place.

The one requirement for all ceremonial Baptism is our common sinfulness.

(Even our Saviour's Baptism was not an exception to this statement; for Christ was both the victim and