

# The Elevator Door is Open: A Daily Baptismal Guide

## *Living Our Promises in the Epiphany Season 2026*

Matthew's Gospel shows us that the grace of baptism is immediate, but so is the sending forth. We don't stay at the font; we are "pushed into the wilderness" of our daily lives.

### **1. Morning Offering: "The 30-Second Start"**

Before you leave the house or start your remote workday, stand by a sink or a bowl of water. Touch the water and make the sign of the cross, praying:

*Holy Spirit, I am your beloved child.*

*As I step out today, give me the words for my "speech" and the courage for my "move."*  
*Manifest your love through me. Amen.*

### **2. "Wilderness" Challenges**

Each day this season, choose one specific "elevator door" to walk through with intention:

- **The "Kroger Moment":** In the checkout line, put your phone away. Make eye contact with the cashier or the person behind you. A simple, "How is your day really going?" is a tangible action that "respects the dignity of every human being."
- **The Roundabout Grace:** While driving through roundabouts or on I-69, practice the "Baptismal Pause." When someone cuts you off, pray: "*They are beloved, too.*" Resisting the urge to react with anger is a way to "persevere in resisting evil."
- **The Digital Threshold:** Before hitting "send" on a stressful email or a social media comment, ask: "*Does this action manifest the light of Jesus?*"

### **3. Evening Examen: "Reviewing the Ride"**

Take 5 minutes before bed to review your day's "elevator speeches" using these (or similar) questions:

1. **Where did I hear the voice of God?** Did I feel a "nudge" from the Spirit today toward a specific person or a difficult conversation?
2. **How did I respond?** Did I step through the open door, or did I wait for the next floor?
3. **Where can you still see the wet footprints of God in your daily life?** Where did I see God's love made "tangible" today – perhaps in a neighbor's kindness or a coworker's support?

### **4. Epiphany Tradition: Chalking the Door 20 + C + M + B + 26**

- Marking your door reminds you that every time you leave your home, you are "being sent" into the world as a witness.