

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Connected to Christ

January 11 & 12, 2020

AS WE GATHER

The First Sunday after the Epiphany takes us in mind and heart to the Jordan River, where Jesus is baptized. This day, observed each year in the Church, is a reminder of the importance of Baptism in the life of every Christian, for it is in dying with Christ through Baptism that we are born anew to eternal life. Although we may have not been baptized in the river Jordan, we share with our Lord the experience of being baptized. Through Baptism, we are connected to Christ and given a whole new way of living for time and for eternity. "But I am baptized!" Martin Luther would exclaim when life situations seemed overwhelming. Knowing that we live daily in baptismal grace makes the difference in our lives as well.

WELCOME

MINISTRY MOMENT - Amanda Buch

"Great, indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:
He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, and taken up in glory."
(1 Timothy 3:16, ESV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN #404 "Jesus, Once With Sinners Numbered"

Jesus, once with sinners numbered, Had no blemish of His own:
In the waters of the Jordan His true worth and work were shown:
Heaven opened and the Spirit There descended like a dove,
As the Father's voice resounded, "Hear My Son, the One I love."

John confessed Him as the Savior – "Look, the sinless Lamb of God!"
Yet he dared not loose the sandals Of the One God's love had shod.
Oh, how fair the feet of Jesus, Bringing news of peace to us,
Christ, the herald of salvation, Preaching mercy from the cross:

This the baptism that our Savior Greatly longed to under-go;
This the crimson cleansing needed So the world God's love might know;
This the mission of Messiah As He stepped from Jordan's stream,
He, the chosen and anointed Son of God, sent to redeem.

Jesus, once with sinners numbered, Full obedience was Your path;
You, by death, have consecrated Water in this saving bath:
Dying to the sin of Adam, Rising to a life of grace;
We are counted with righteous, Over us the cross You trace.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.

People: **You who have done great things, O God, who is like you?**

Pastor: My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you;

People: **my soul also, which you have redeemed.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: People redeemed by the Lord, let us now make confession of our sins to God our heavenly Father.

People: **Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of having sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not lived our lives fully in the baptismal grace with which we have been blessed. We have not completely shared the bounty you have given us as stewards of your creation. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, forgive what is sinful in our lives, and grant that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of your holy name.**

Pastor: God has promised pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE #816 "From All That Dwell Below the Skies"

From all that dwell below the skies Let the creator's praise arise; Alleluia, alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung Through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal are Thy mercies Lord: Eternal truth attends Thy Word. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All praise to God the Father be, All praise, eternal Son, to Thee. Alleluia, alleluia!
Whom with the Spirit we adore Forever and forevermore:
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, in the Baptism of our Lord Jesus in the Jordan River, you affirmed Him as your beloved Son. Grant that we, your beloved children, ever remain connected to Christ and live each day in our baptismal grace as we await the joy of life in your eternal presence. This we ask for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 42:1-9* (The Chosen One of the Lord)

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 6:1-11* (We are created to walk in newness of life in Christ.)

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

5:00 ANTHEM

"How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" - Kosche

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 3:13-17* (Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan River.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #399 "The Star Proclaims the King is Here"

The star proclaims the King is here; But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For He who offers heav'nly birth Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.

The eastern sages, saw from far And followed on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they trod And by their gifts confessed their God.

Within the Jordan's sacred flood The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood
That He, of whom no sin was known, Might cleanse His people from their own.

And oh, what miracle divine, When water reddened into wine!
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed In streams that nature ne'er bestowed.

For this Thy glad epiphany All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit evermore.

SERMON "New Life in Christ"

(Rise)

CATECHISM *The Third Article and Baptism*

Pastor: The First Sunday after the Epiphany is traditionally celebrated as the day we commemorate the Baptism of Our Lord. Today we confess the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the work of the Holy Spirit and also speak the words from Luther's Small Catechism regarding the work of the Spirit through Baptism.

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastor: As the Holy Spirit works through the Means of Grace, we ask, "How can the water used in Holy Baptism do such great things?"

People: Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

Pastor: Father in heaven, we pray for all the baptized, that having been united to Christ's death and resurrection through water and the Word, your people may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

People: Bless us with the gifts of the Spirit to live the new life given to us in Christ.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we pray for the one holy Christian and Apostolic Church, that in every place where God's people are called and gathered by His Spirit, they may be enlightened by His Word and sanctified by His grace for holy living.

People: Grant us to grow in faithfulness and walking with Jesus day by day.

Pastor: God who is with us, we pray for this community of faith and for unity of confession, for our witness before the world, and for the mercy work you have called us to do.

People: Bless us with faithful pastors to preach God's Word and faithful leaders to guide and strengthen us in the fulfillment of all that our God has given us to do.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, we pray for the agencies and institutions of our Synod and the mission work we do together, praying that God would bless and prosper the training of church workers, the sending forth of missionaries, and the raising up of servants with humble hearts.

People: Bless our Groundwork Guatemala team along with our Together in Mission partners, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family and Rachel Meyer, that many would be strengthened in faith.

Pastor: Lord of all nations, we pray for our nation and those who govern us, that our leaders may be people of integrity and that we may be good citizens together.

People: Bless us to wisely use all the resources you have entrusted to us for purposes consistent with your Word and the blessing of our neighbors.

Pastor: Lord of our salvation, give to us grateful hearts, that we may receive the blessing of Christ's body and blood to our benefit and manifest in our daily lives repentance of sin and every evil and bring forth the righteousness of faith.

People: As we look for Christ's return, hasten the day when all earthly divisions will cease and we will be one people living in the peace and joy of the life of the world to come.

Pastor: Dear heavenly Father, we pray for those who have been baptized but have fallen away from the faith, that we may speak to them with courage and compassion, so that they may be restored to faith and life.

People: Use each of us to reach out to draw others back to the fold of your people gathered around your Word and Sacrament.

Pastor: Compassionate Lord, we pray for the poor, the hungry and the homeless, that we may remember them in prayer and love them in Christ.

People: Move us to support them with our resources and encourage them to remain faithful in every adversity of life.

Pastor: God of healing and hope, we pray for the sick and distressed, granting them healing for their bodies according to your will and strength to bear the infirmities they suffer, especially Sydney, Diane, Dorothy, June, John, Arlene, Jerry, Judi, Nancy, Robert, Jonathan, Russ, Steve, Sharon, Bette, Nathan, Shirley, Cindy, Bill, Katie, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley, Sarah, and all those named in our hearts.

People: Sustain them in their time of affliction and grant them ultimate healing and hope in Christ.

Pastor: O Lord, you are always near the brokenhearted, so we pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones, especially Pat Sweeney as she remembers Roxanne, and the family and friends of Dawn Gallatin mourning her death. Comfort your children in their time of sorrow and provide encouragement through the hope of everlasting life.

People: Grant each of us to look forward to the life to come and the reunion with all those who have departed this life in faith.

Pastor: God of every good gift, we rejoice with Roger and Lonna as they celebrate 48 years of life together as husband and wife.

People: Bless them and all Christian couples to live in the love and joy of Christ.

Pastor: O merciful Lord, grant that we may have confidence in the promise given to us in our Baptism into Christ and trust you to provide answer to the prayers we bring to you this day. And when the Last Day comes, bring us into the joy of your everlasting light and life through the merits and mercies of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #605 "Father Welcomes"

Refrain: Father welcomes all His children To His fam'ly through His Son.

Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.

Little children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these.

Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. *Refrain*

In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured;

Those who are baptized and believe Shall be born again. *Refrain*

Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily rise with Him.

Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God. *Refrain*

HYMN #624 "The Infant Priest Was Holy Born"

The infant Priest was holy born For us unholy and forlorn;
From fleshly temple forth came He, Anointed from eternity.

This great High Priest in human flesh Was icon of God's righteousness.
His hallowed touch brought sanctity; His hand removed impurity.

The holy Lamb undaunted came To God's own altar lit with flame;
While weeping angels hid their eyes, This Priest became a sacrifice.

But death would not the victor be Of Him who hung upon the tree.
He leads us to the Holy Place Within the veil, before God's face.

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The veil is torn, our Priest we see, As at the rail on bended knee
Our hungry mouths from Him receive The bread of immortality.

The body of God's Lamb we eat, A priestly food and priestly meat;
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours His quenching blood that life restores.

With cherubim and seraphim Our voices join the endless hymn,
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

HYMN #628 "Your Table I Approach"

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.

Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
a contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night

For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord God, heavenly Father, ruler of all things, you have again connected us to Christ through this blessed Meal. Send your Holy Spirit that, having now received this Holy Sacrament, we die daily through Baptism and rise new and restored as we joyfully continue our earthly pilgrimage until that time when we are gathered into your heavenly kingdom to share in your blessings for all eternity. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN #922

“Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.
In My love’s baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing – You are My own.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son’s story; Here you touched Him, Saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit’s power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.
I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, my children; I will keep you and give you peace.

Preacher
Liturgist
Children’s Message
Lectors
Director of Parish Music

Pastor Noah Kegley
Pastor Harold Bender
Laurel Privatt
Dalen Heinzen, Laurel Privatt
Michelle Prince

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Birthday Bags are available in the narthex for you to take, fill and deliver to one of our homebound members. Thank you to Dawn Ziolecki for overseeing this worthwhile mission! Carol Schuerman 1/22; Henry Weil 2/6; Arlene Gies 2/7; Charles Kallies 2/15.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! *We are so grateful for all the cards, gifts, and well wishes we received from so many of you over the Christmas celebration of Christ's birth. It is a joy to serve Jesus and His people here at St. Paul's. May God bless you throughout the coming year. ~ Pastor and Jo Bender*

To the people of St. Paul’s

Both Monica and I thank everyone who expressed kindness to us and gave us Christmas cards and presents. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is deeply cherished. Thank you for thinking of us during Christmas. It is an honor to serve you all in Jesus’ name!

Your fellow servants, Pastor Noah and Monica

The Lutheran High School Association Honor Band Concert: January 16 at 7:00pm in Martin Luther’s Worship and Fine Arts Center.

