

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD SUNDAY



January 10, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

INTRODUCTION

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

PRELUDE



+ GATHERING +

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Congregation (C) Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,

C you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ✠ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C Amen.



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
 2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
 3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
 4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
 Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
 and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
 All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
 As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
 end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
 pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
 Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
 Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion
 Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



F Lord God, heav- en - ly king, al- migh- y God and Fa- ther, we



wor- ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



+ WORD +

FIRST READING: FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

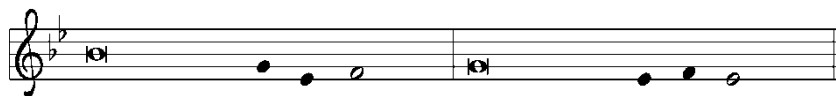
¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Reader The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

We sing the psalm responsively.



Leader ¹Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

**C ²Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God’s name;
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

L ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

**C ⁴The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**

L ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;
 the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

C **“the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
 and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

L ⁷The voice | of the LORD
 bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

C ⁸**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;
 the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**

L ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.
 And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, “Glory!”

C ¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
 the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

L ¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people;
 give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

C **Amen.**

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John’s baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Reader The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

P The holy gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¶John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ¶And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ¶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ¶He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ¶I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

HYMN OF THE DAY 305 *When Jesus Came to Jordan*



1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John,
 2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,
 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;



he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.
 for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.
 this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond-age break.



He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,
 So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,
 Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:



to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
 the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
 to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
 Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune
 Text © 1980 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

NICENE CREED

A Let us confess our faith.

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.


We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Let us pray.



Congregational response: Have mercy, O God.




1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;




haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

+ SENDING +

BLESSING *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*


P God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.

C **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Refrain
All

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,



wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader All


1 See that host all dressed in white,

2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the

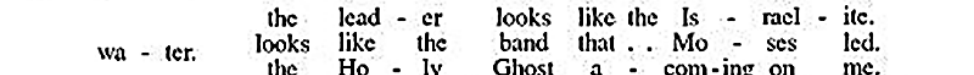
3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?

4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

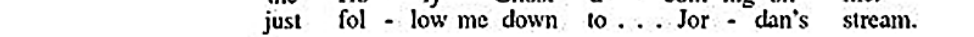
Leader



wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.



looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led.



the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.

just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All *Refrain*



God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: WADE IN THE WATER, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

- A We believe out loud that God's mission for us is:
- C to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.
- P Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
- C Thanks be to God.

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Sundays and Seasons v.20200805.1416
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**FLOWERS ARE GIVEN
TO THE GLORY OF GOD.**

Calendar for January 10 - 17

Jan.	10	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Worship (online), Baptism of our Lord Sunday
			11:30 a.m.	Congregational meeting via Zoom
	13	Wed.	Noon	Bible study (online)
	17	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship (online), Second Sunday after Epiphany

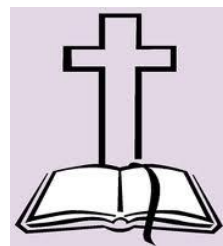
Next Sunday's Readings, Second Sunday after Epiphany:

[1 Samuel 3:1-10 \[11-20\]](#)

[Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18](#)

[1 Corinthians 6:12-20](#)

[John 1:43-51](#)



PRAYER REQUESTS

New concerns: Karen Olson, mourning the passing of her father; Mark Canning for treatment of heart condition; Mark Eagelfeld (friend of Judi Duffy), being treated for COVID; child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl), for healing of inoperable cancerous brain tumor.

For the sick: Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor); being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Jamie Ann Meyers (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Gerhard Hofer (brother-in-law of Ridy Hofer) .

In treatment for cancer: Stephanie Barber; Kamie Stonemetz (daughter of Jim Christianson); Cathie Nitti (niece of Sharon Simmons); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Isabell Cintron (friend of Sharon Simmons); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Tiffany Nuce and unborn baby (family of Barbara ODonnell); Chris Dickman (synod councilmember).

For health and protection: For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personal, EMTs, the millions of unemployed people, etc. All immigrant families split apart by US Government; for the unaccompanied children entering the US, including those “unaccounted for”.

For prisoners: Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

Other concerns: Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

Church concerns: St. Stephen’s Congregational Council; The Florida-Bahamas Synod Council all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola .

World concerns: For all recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.