

Children's Time

Gathering Hymn ELW #455 Crashing Waters at Creation

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| 1. Crashing waters at creation,
ordered by the Spirit's breath,
first to witness day's beginning
from the brightness of night's death. | 3. Cleansing water once at Jordan
closed around the one foretold,
opened to reveal the glory
ever new and ever old. |
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Confession and Forgiveness

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. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **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.**

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. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

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. Amen.**

First reading: Acts 19:1-7

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. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel reading: Mark 1:4-11

The holy gospel according to _____. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I 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." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

I've probably shared this story with you all before, but I think it's worth resharing. It was about a celebrity that lived several years ago and whose name I can't remember, but he lived much of his life on the wild side, as the saying goes. However, in his older years he became connected with a Christian congregation and started to change his lifestyle. He'd never actually been part of a church before and was never baptized. It was the tradition of this congregation to practice full immersion baptisms where the people would actually go down into one of the rivers nearby. As this man was standing on the banks of that river with his pastor preparing for his baptism the minister said to him, "you know, when you're baptized, it will be as if all of your sins are washed down this stream". The man thought for a moment about all the trouble he'd raised during his life and said, "boy do I feel sorry for all those people living downstream".

Baptism is one of the great milestones of our faith lives because much like the final act of play or a movie, it just ties everything else together. Through baptism, God makes us a part of something greater than just ourselves. You see, baptism is almost like an initiation, through which someone becomes part of the whole Christian Church stretching throughout all of space and time. That's why baptisms are always done communally in worship with sponsors and relatives present as well as with the rest of the congregation participating who all make vows to support and pray for the newly baptized and why we always end every baptism by saying, "we welcome you into the Body of Christ and into the mission we share". Because baptism creates a link that cannot be broken between all of together as children of God. I have a friend who grew up in a congregation that had a member who took this charge very literally, and after each baptism he would always go over and be the first person to greet the newly baptized and their family. Even if he'd never met them before and even if there was some conflict between them, he'd still always go out and greet them with kindness and compassion because he saw how they were now sibling in Christ and shared a special connection which couldn't be broken.

Really though, our baptisms also give us a special connection across all of God's creation. To highlight all of these things that baptism does, we've included in your worship materials this morning the order of service that we use for all our baptisms. I encourage you

all to take a few moments at some point this week and read through these words. When you do so I hope you'll see how in baptism God empowers us to work for God's justice and peace by caring for others and the world that God's made. Just imagine the kind of world we'd have if we all lived out this calling we receive in our baptisms, a world where we recognize the connection we share with all living things through our creator, a world filled with God's peace and justice, and a world where we all welcome one another just as that man in my friend's home congregation would always go over and welcome the newly baptized. Well friends this is exactly how God created this world to exist. This is God's answer to the injustices and violence that which have become far too prevalent in the world and which we've seen on full display this past week. Through the waters of baptism, God plants the seeds for redeeming this brokenness throughout creation, and making us whole once again.

As a reminder of all these blessings which are poured out onto us in baptism, I'm going to invite you all wherever you are, to take one of your fingers and trace the sign of the cross on your foreheads just like we do at every baptism, or if you're watching with other family members or friends you can trace the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads. I pray that this may give you all assurance of the good news, that we're all part of this greater community known as the church, where we're empowered to care for others and the world that God has made, because we've been marked with the cross of Christ and sealed in the Holy Spirit forever. So now may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord, amen.

Hymn of the Day ELW # 448 This Is the Spirit's Entry Now

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| 1. This is the Spirit's entry now:
the water and the word,
the cross of Jesus on your brow,
the seal both felt and heard. | 3. Let water be the sacred sign
that we must die each day
to rise again by his design
as followers of his way. |
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Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Peace— Drop an emoji of a wave, the 'peace sign', or make a sign and post it in the comments! Be creative! The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering Prayer - *You may hold out your offering.* O God, **receive these gifts as you receive us: like a loving mother receives her child, with arms open wide.** Nourish us anew in your tender care and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, God of life, **come and fill our hearts with your peace.**

For wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth, that God's goodness is revealed through creation and faithful stewards care for all God has made, God of life, **come and fill our hearts with your peace.**

For the nations of the world and their leaders, for laborers busy both day and night, and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their strength wisely, God of life, **come and fill our hearts with your peace.**

For the sick and those who provide medical care, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for all who suffer (*especially*), that God shower compassion, God of life, **come and fill our hearts with your peace.**

For the congregation gathered here, for students returning to school, for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace, God of life, **come and fill our hearts with your peace.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations, God of life, **come and fill our hearts with your peace.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Meal of Holy Communion

Post Communion Prayer

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

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

Sending Song ELW # 407 O Living Breath of God

1. O living Breath of God,
wind at the beginning
upon the waters;
O living Breath of God,
Bearing the creation
to wondrous birth: *refrain*

3. O living Breath of God,
bearing us to life
through baptismal waters;
O living Breath of God,
sighing with creation
for freedom's birth: *refrain*

Refrain:

Come now, and fill our spirits; pour out your gifts abundant.
O living Breath of God, Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.

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Dismissal

Go in peace, Christ is with you. Thanks be to God!

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ELW Holy Baptism

Please join us for the service of Holy Baptism found on page 227 of your hymnal.

PRESENTATION

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors for each candidate, in turn, present the candidates:

I present name for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *(name)* baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

As you bring *your children* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *them* among God's faithful people,
bring *them* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in *their* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *them* in faith and prayer,
so that *your children* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *your children* grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *these persons* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help *him* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to name/s and pray for *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.

I ask you all to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving. At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

The presiding minister baptizes each candidate. The candidate is immersed into the water, or water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

____ *Name* _____, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:

and of the Son,

The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

You belong to Christ,

in whom you have been baptized.

Alleluia.

The presiding minister continues:

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:

Sustain *name* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and

understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

 Name , child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me

will have the light of life.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:

join us in giving thanks and praise to God

and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

I invite the children to come up to sing 'Jesus Loves Me.'

The service continues with the prayers of intercession, or, if baptism has taken place in the gathering rite, with the greeting.