



Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, January 10, 2021

The following worship service may be used on its own or along with the video found on the Swamp Lutheran YouTube page.

Thank you, Lord of life, for this beautiful day! May all who worship here know the warmth of your presence and the sunlight of your love.

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.

Hymn "Crashing Waters at Creation" ELW 455

- 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.

- 4 Living water, never ending,
quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Wellspring, source of life eternal,
drench our dryness, make us whole.

The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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

And also with you.

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. **Amen.**

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 1: 4-11

The Holy Gospel according to Mark
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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.

Homily The Rev. Kurt Strause

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends "Lord, in your mercy," and the response is "**Hear our prayer.**"

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as is 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.**

Blessing

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;

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Hymn "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" ELW 310

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

- 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
prophet, priest, and king supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in pow'r divine,
changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

- 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee now
and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee
at thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in flesh made manifest.

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world bearing the Good News of Christ in word and deed.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "O Love, How Deep" – Mackie

Four Gospels: One Jesus *An On-Line Bible Study*

The New Testament contains four gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each tells the story of Jesus in their own way. While many of the episodes in the life of Jesus are the same, there are differences in emphasis and events between the four evangelists. Each week we'll explore one of the gospels and discover what the particular writer wants us to know about Jesus.

This four-week Bible study will begin on Tuesday, January 5 at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom link for the Bible study will be published on the church website.

Barb Mizdail
Katie Houck
Sue Kittler
Shirley Achey – neighbor of Sue Kreitz
Jean Wolf
Susan Levan
Nancy Kulp
Mary Kring – Aunt of Linda Ream
Mary Jane Miller
Jan Risser
Dorothy Good
Fay Harting (Nana of Abbey Rineer)
Clair Sweigart
Earl Myers
Sharon Fremont – friend of Sue Kreitz
Family of Ruth Sweigart
Ralph Good
Randy Gockley



When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time, they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.



Michael A. Crowther
Clarice Haws
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer
Ella Shirk
Alverta Showalter
Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel
Mary Jane Miller

TAKE NOTE - Please contact Joyce Stoner 717-336-7077 if you would like to sponsor a candle.