

Worship Plan for Sunday, January 10, 2021

Baptism of Our Lord

Baptism of Our Lord / Lectionary 1

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Introduction to the day

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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GREETING

Welcome to worship today, we are glad to have you with our Faith Lutheran Church community. I'm Pr. John Barton and I will be leading our service today.

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! Praise Christ, no cloudy day, no isolation, no fear can darken the light which Jesus shines in our lives!

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday: Worship and Music at 9:30am, Exec at 1pm

Tuesday: Cheer team at 10am

Wednesday: Stewardship at 2pm

Thursday: Bible Study at 2pm

Other: Reports for the Annual Meeting were due last Friday, just a reminder to get those in if you haven't yet.

I am also sad to announce the death of Bob Eury this week. Prayers for Gale and the family are much appreciated.

Finally, next Sunday, January 17th we will have service in person in our parking lot in our cars like we did for Christmas Eve. The service will start at our normal time of 9:30am, but we ask you to get there early so that we can park everyone in time. Come and join us as we safely worship!

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office. Thank you!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the

entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING:

A reading from Genesis.

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:

A reading from Acts.

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.

CHILDRENS CHAT

GOSPEL:

The Holy Gospel for Epiphany According to Matthew 2:1-12

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Visit of the Wise Men

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

And The Holy Gospel for the Baptism of our Lord, According to Mark 1:4-11

4 John the baptizer appeared[a] in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** 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. **6** Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** 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. **8** I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Baptism of Jesus

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And 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. **11** And 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 and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

This week, we celebrated the holidays of Epiphany and the Baptism of our Lord. In both we see God's mission revealed in the world. We also were witness to something else this week, something that shocked our

nation. On the day of Epiphany, our nation's capitol was broken into by a mob. Much like King Herod in the Epiphany reading, the mob had no regard for decency or law and order, preferring to sow chaos and violence instead.

We need God's wisdom and revealing truth this week and we need the healing nature of God's power. There is significance then, that Epiphany and Our Lord's Baptism fall into place upon this week. Epiphany, the word, means an experience of a sudden and striking realization. Epiphany, the holiday, is the manifestation of Christ to the world as represented by the Magi. I think that we can use the shocking events of Wednesday to move us towards the realization that despite the continued division we see in the country that we can all unite against the chaotic lawlessness displayed by those who invaded the capitol building. It was something that was unprecedented, and we still don't know the scope of the consequences wrought from this infamous day. However, as destabilizing as Wednesday's events were, the good news is that the power of the subject of our two holidays this week is far greater and far more becalming, holding us steadfast and anchoring us in his sacramental ties.

Before Jesus comes to him, John the Baptist said this in the wilderness “I am not worthy.” Jesus’ own cousin did not feel worthy of Jesus’ presence, to untie the thong on his sandal even. And yet, Jesus did not call John to him, Jesus went to John. In the same way that Jesus came to earth to become flesh, Jesus went to where John was- in both cases declaring those Jesus came to dwell among to be worthy. We do not inherit or achieve worthiness because we did some great pilgrimage or quest to find God. God finds us, where we are, out in the wilderness like John the Baptist was, or here in your home. Jesus seeks us out, lays his worthiness upon us like a blanket. And then, extraordinarily, Jesus invites us to share in the experience. John, who declared himself unworthy, nonetheless baptizes Jesus in the Jordan River. What does this mean? It means that John is a stand-in or a representative for all of us. We are not lost in the wilderness, we do not need to hide from God because we are unworthy. We are called, invited, drawn into the presence of God- privileged with the exquisite delight in touching Christ as John did, holding each other when we feel submerged by recent events and then raising each other up out of the water to live anew in the light which Jesus shines in our lives like a bright guiding star.

In baptism, we might appraise the one being baptized as being passive, the one being acted upon. And yet uniquely in Jesus' baptism, Jesus is also active, giving us the message that we are all active participants in God's mission, all beautifully and wondrously claimed by God in this sacred, mysterious exchange and mingling of presences. Our Lord's birth and baptism were truly unique in all of history. These holy happenings marked a transformation of our human existence due to our manifested coexistence with God. God created, as written in our Genesis reading, willing light into the dark void and pulling our world out of the waters. And light shone again with the star which guided the magi to the place of the birth of the Creator's Son. And light shone once more, light of the Holy Spirit descending upon that Son as he emerged from the waters, bringing the whole world with him again out of dark waters of chaos. So again, with the events of the last year and the events of the last week- I think that it is significant that these two holidays full of transformation and light, events which signaled a change and a turning point are happening now. Let us take inspiration from the magi, wisely seeking Jesus even as a baby guided by a light in the heavens. Let us seek Jesus too, when we feel like chaotic events are trying to drown us, let Jesus catch us in the water, giving us breath to keep going, life to keep on living, light to keep on

transforming into what God has planned for us. Now, let us turn again to Christ, to whom we pray:

Oh Jesus, be our guiding star of wisdom. Be our epiphany, oh Holy one, revealing truth out of chaos and pain. Be our light, and in doing so wash us clean with your peaceful baptismal waters, healing our worried and wearied hearts. Let your spirit wash over us again and again, each new day, with each new worry and each new joy. When we feel that we have been wandering lost and alone, you find us and reveal yourself as our destination. Imbue in us your mission, remind us always of your presence with us, and that you claim us as your own.

Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

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.

For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

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, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

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, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

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, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

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, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

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.

PRAYER LIST

Gloria Anderson; Nancy Blackmer; Julie Chevraux; Vicki Crow; Gale Eury; Marlin Jay; Francis Key; Iver & Lois Linge; Carol Morris; Pat Myers; Ron Neumen; Tina Peteroski & Peggy Wharton & family; Edy Rose; Dee Seel; Jan Simon; Amy Sinclair; Earlean Wagner; Mary Yturalde; the homebound; the Emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery/tests.

If you would like your name added to our prayer list, please contact the church office.

PRAYER IN PANDEMIC

Merciful God, you give us the grace that helps in time of need. Almighty God, your love never fails. Help us to receive your word with believing hearts, so that, confident in your promises, we may have hope and be lifted out of sorrow into the joy and peace of your presence.

God of health and healing, surround us with your steadfast love and lighten our burden. We especially pray for those affected by COVID-19 and those who have lost loved ones.

We also hold in prayer our healthcare providers, first responders, essential workers, and all who continue to serve so that others can maintain safety. By the power of your Spirit, free us from distress and give us a new mind and a heart made whole in the name of the risen Christ.

Amen

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

At this time, we remember that the giving of our offering is an authentic part of worship.

In this time of the offering, in place of passing around the offering plate, we ask that you continue to mail your offerings to the church, to drop them off during office hours, or use your bank's bill pay service. We will emphasize this time of offering as a time for us to also give thanks for God's gifts. One of those gifts is our community of Faith Lutheran Church and the gift of keeping us together through the work of the Holy Spirit and the work of our

Faith family. So thank you for the phone calls to each other, for your prayers for each other, for all the ways you have been giving your gifts to God's church and one another.
Thank you so much!

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

INSTRUCTION OF COMMUNION AT HOME

Let us pray,

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care:

As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,

be present with those who partake and share your word and sacrament.

We remember you in the celebration of the sacrament and remember that you unite us as the body of Christ whether we are together in-person or together while apart.

In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament,

and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence

through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

At this point in the service, for those at home, please bring bread and drink for communion, preferably wine or grape juice but it can also be water. If you have communion elements gathered, I'd invite you to share with anyone in your household, and if you do not, know that the restoration and healing found in this sacrament still reaches you wherever you are.

While worshipping during the pandemic, we will be instituting communion a bit differently. These Words of Institution bless the eucharistic elements wherever you are, trusting in the all-reaching power and grace of God to provide the complete and total sacrament to us in these extraordinary times when we come to Christ's table in our own way and our own place. Once you have your eucharistic elements of bread and drink, and after the words of institution, you may commune yourself along with anyone else in your household. In all cases, you may commune saying:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

And so,

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have
united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us

forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

MUSIC REMINDER

Be sure to watch our separate prelude and postlude music selections if you haven't already. Those videos can be found above and below this worship video on our website.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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