

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
JANUARY 10, 2021**



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAUSE AND PRAYER AMIDST NATIONAL DISTRESS:

L: Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In these times of danger and trouble, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation with your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

P: **Amen.**

(ELW, Prayer for National Distress, page 76)

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In the beginning of creation the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Today we remember the Spirit's presence at Jesus' baptism and the voice from heaven, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Through our baptism into Christ, the Spirit comes upon us, re-creating us, 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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: 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.

P: **Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundance grace of God.

Holy God,

P: 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.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: 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.

P: **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L: A reading from Second Corinthians “If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for river and streams. Honor to you for clouds and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the foundation of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your rushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again. Praise to you for the waters of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this sacrament. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us and drown the evil around us. Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.

SPLASHED WITH THE WATERS OF BAPTISM, MARKED WITH THE CROSS OF CHRIST

(All are invited to make the sign of the cross with water on their forehead)

L: Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GATHERING SONG: “Baptized in Water”

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our king: heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God’s praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our kin; one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God’s praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king: born of the Spirit, we are God’s children; joyfully now God’s praise we sing.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: 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.

P: Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SONG: "You Say"

[Lauren Daigle - You Say \(Official Music Video\) - YouTube](#)

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5

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 God called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.



PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

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

⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

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

⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh

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!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned asking forevermore.

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND 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 Paul 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.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:4-11

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, "After me the one who is more powerful than I is coming; the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but the one who is coming will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as Jesus 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."



MESSAGE: Shivon Miller

SONG: "Holy Spirit" Francesca Battistelli

[Francesca Battistelli - Holy Spirit \(Official Audio\) - YouTube](#)

CONFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTLES' 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.

THE OFFERING

OFFERING SONG: "Send Me Jesus"

Send me Jesus, send me Jesus, send me Jesus, send me Lord.

I am willing, I am willing, I am willing, willing Lord.

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, receive the gifts we bring as you receive us; like a 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.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

L: On this Sunday of the baptism of our Lord, let us offer our prayers for all in need, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "Give us your blessings of peace."

A brief silence.

For the worldwide church; for those who minister in the church; for all who will be baptized this year; and for their godparents and sponsors: that the Holy Spirit will empower all the faithful for lives of service, let us pray. O God, give strength to your people.

P: Give us your blessings of peace.

L: For the waters of the earth; for the seas, the lakes, the rivers; for the wells that provide drinking water; and for the water that is piped into our homes: that God provide clean and nourishing water for all living things, let us pray. O God, give strength to your people.

P: Give us your blessings of peace.

L: For our nation and all the nations of the world and their leaders; for international efforts to prevent war and reduce violence; for the armed forces; for police officers; and for peacemakers: that God inspire all people to work for the harmonious well-being of others, let us pray. O God, give strength to your people.

P: Give us your blessings of peace.

L: For students; for teachers and school administrators; for parents assisting their children in home schooling; and for young people who are finding a way toward graduation: that as the academic year resumes, God give resilience to everyone in the search for education, let us pray. O God, give strength to your people.

P: Give us your blessings of peace.

L: For all who are in trouble, want, or sickness; for the countless who are suffering with COVID-19; for medical workers; for people who are hungry or homeless, imprisoned or lonely; and for those we name here. . . .: that God grant health and wholeness to a world so filled with pain, let us pray.

A brief silence.

O God, give strength to your people.

P: Give us your blessings of peace.

L: For ourselves: that we rejoice in our adoption as members of God's family, and that now in this silence we bring to God our heart's requests, let us pray.

A longer period of silence.

O God, give strength to your people.

P: Give us your blessings of peace.

L: In gratitude for our beloved dead. We offer our praise for all the baptized who have accompanied us and supported us and taught us throughout our days; that at our end we join with them in everlasting joy, let us pray. O God, give strength to your people.

P: Give us your blessings of peace.

L: Almighty and most merciful God, you are the mighty Voice from heaven, you are our beloved Savior, you are the descending Dove. We give you thanks for all your goodness and tender mercies, and we ask you to accept our prayers for the sake of your mercy, today and forever.

P: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

P: 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.

BLESSING

L: God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you; and the
Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.

P: Amen.



SENDING SONG: *"I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry" John Ylvisaker*

"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'till rising sun."

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise."

"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold."

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

P: Thanks be to God.

AFTER THOUGHTS
January 10, 2021
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

A Hitch in the Story

Was it wildfire nerve? Unchecked audacity? Holy purpose? The hammering of parents' expectations? Maybe the privilege of being kin to Jesus? Or was it eccentricity as peculiar as his diet and wardrobe? What desire drove John to the wilderness, into the water of the Jordan? What ignited his fiery proclamation of repentance and forgiveness? What current pulled crowds from city and country into the water?

One can say, rightly, that it was ordained by God, compelled by the Holy Spirit, predicted by an angel. Yet there is a hitch in the story. Four easily missed but utterly important words gum up the works of any timid or tidy explanations: "I am not worthy" (Mark 1:7).

Something in John's four words opens the baptismal story to torrents of wonder, floods of hope, drenching relief and recovery.

For some years the two friends had been together through what we often call the thick and the thin. They knew this and that, bits and pieces, the here and there of one another's lives. And not only the trivial. They probed each other's shadowed corridors and crumbling edges. Still, there were secrets, withholdings. One day, for reasons wrapped with nothing but the ragged swaddling of unaccountable grace, one said to the other, "It has been such a long, lonely journey, carrying a suitcase filled with secrets, the shames and deceptions I've folded and packed." Then he began to tell. To confess. A repenting, a turning. His friend's eyes filled with tears that watered his cheeks and dripped into his lap. All he could say through the flood was, "I love you all the more."

Born literally of grace, breaking the dam of John's four words, "I am not worthy," is one stronger word, the word of the more powerful one: *forgiveness*. To John and to us who say, "I am not worthy," Jesus answers, "Yes, yes, yes, you are."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Trinity's Annual Meeting will be held as a Zoom meeting on January 31, 2021 at 11 a.m. Prior to the meeting, the 2020 Annual Report and 2021 Budget and Ballot will be e-mailed to those with e-mails. A hard copy will be mailed to anyone who requests one.

ENDOWMENT APPLICATIONS: Application forms and information will be available on our website and Facebook after January 10, 2021.

REMINDER TO COUNCIL/TEAM MEMBERS: Please get your reports to Aine as soon as possible because of the early mailing date for the Annual Congregational Report.