



**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP  
CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Currently located at:

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Pastor Leslie R. Swenson, Transitional Pastor

# THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 10, 2021

**Welcome to today's worship on Zoom!** We rejoice in the company of one another, distant but yet bound together in the love of Christ who unites us wherever we are. Although we cannot hear one another at most places of response during worship, you are encouraged to participate fully with heart and voice in all the parts of the liturgy.

**Today as we observe the festival of The Baptism of our Lord, we at the same time pause to give thanks and re-affirm our own baptisms into Christ.** In the waters of our baptisms we have been claimed and called as God's own beloved, woven into the whole community of Christ, and sent to serve in Jesus' name. Please have a small bowl of water close by today. At the conclusion of today's Affirmation of Baptism, you will be asked to dip your fingers into the water and mark others in your household, or yourself, with the sign of the cross, saying to one another or to yourself: *"Remember that you are baptized. God loves you and calls you onto life."*

## Introduction for today

*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.*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

*(The congregation is invited to join in all that is printed in **bold.**)*

PRAYER REQUESTS

WELCOME

### GATHERING

*the Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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.**

**GATHERING SONG: *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* ELW #310**

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|--|--|
| 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,<br>Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;<br>manifested by the star<br>to the sages from afar,<br>branch of royal David's stem<br>in thy birth at Bethlehem:<br>anthems be to thee addressed,<br>God in flesh made manifest. | 3 Manifest in making whole<br>weakened body, fainting soul;<br>manifest in valiant fight,<br>quelling all the devil's might;<br>manifest in gracious will,<br>ever bringing good from ill:<br>anthems be to thee addressed,<br>God in flesh made manifest.     |
| 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,<br>prophet, priest, and king supreme;<br>and at Cana wedding guest<br>in thy Godhead manifest;<br>manifest in pow'r divine,<br>changing water into wine;<br>anthems be to thee addressed,<br>God in flesh made manifest.  | 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,<br>present in thy holy word;<br>grace to imitate thee now<br>and be pure, as pure art thou;<br>that we might become like thee<br>at thy great epiphany,<br>and may praise thee, ever blest,<br>God in flesh made manifest. |

**GREETING**

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.**

## 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: Genesis 1.1-5** (*Lector-lead; Assisting Minister-response*)

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the 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. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

PSALM: Psalm 29 (*Lector-lead; Assisting Minister-response*)

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;  
worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.

**<sup>4</sup>The voice of the LORD is powerful;  
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**<sup>6</sup>He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

**<sup>8</sup>The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare;  
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

<sup>11</sup>May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with  
peace!

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. Alleluia. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Alleluia. Alleluia.** (Matthew 3.17)

## **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.*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory be to you, O God.**

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

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon*

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**     *(Assisting Minister-responses)*

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you 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?

**I renounce them.**

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

**I renounce them.**

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

**I renounce them.**

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.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people 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.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:    *We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus    ELW #451***

- 1 We are baptized in Christ Jesus,  
we are baptized in his death;  
that as Christ is raised victorious,  
we might live a brand new life.  
And if we have been united  
in a dreadful death like his,  
we will all be reunited, for he lives.
- 2 In the water and the witness,  
in the breaking of the bread,  
in the waiting arms of Jesus  
who is risen from the dead,  
God has made a new beginning  
from the ashes of our past;  
in the losing and the winning we hold fast.
- 3 Glory be to God the Father,  
glory be to Christ the Son,  
glory to the Holy Spirit,  
ever three and ever one;  
as it was in the beginning,  
glory now resounds again  
in a song that has no ending. Amen

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (*Assisting Minister-lead; Lector-response*)

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, 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... (*prayer list*), 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.**

Bless and enrich the life of the new congregation you have called into ministry, Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. As you led us to these new days of a new year, continue to guide us with your Spirit that our words and actions may boldly reflect your shining light of love and hope in this world, Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.**

## **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.**

## **SENDING**

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

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon with favor and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## **Announcements**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Thanks to those assisting with worship today:**

<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	Sharon Napolitano	<i>Lector:</i>	Paul Snyder
<i>Musician:</i>	Caroline Henry		
<i>Zoom producer:</i>	Rob Hanson		