



ST. PAUL'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 10, 2021

The Baptism of Our Lord

11:00 a.m. Digital Worship

www.facebook.com/SPLutherville and www.stpaulslutherville.org

Welcome to our digital worship service to gather as a community online since we can't gather in person! If you haven't already done so, take a moment to quiet your space by turning down/off other devices, lighting a candle, grabbing your Bible, and breathe a bit before we start. If you're going to be joining in celebrating Communion today, make sure to have your bread and wine/juice nearby.

If you're joining the live feed through Facebook, comment to "say hello" and connect with one another. Feel free to use the "share" button and to help spread the reach of our ministry!

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Out of the Wildness* – by S. Dooley, 2021

RINGING OF THE BELL

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... 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: *God of Wonders* By Marc Byrd & Steve Hindalong

Lord of all creation, of water, earth and sky
The heavens are Your tabernacle; glory to the Lord on high

Chorus:

God of Wonders beyond our galaxy, You are holy, holy;
The universe declares Your majesty. You are holy, holy
Lord of heaven and earth, Lord of heaven and earth

Early in the morning, I will celebrate the light
When I stumble in the darkness, I will call Your name by night

Chorus; Repeat Chorus

Hallelujah, to the Lord of heaven and earth
Hallelujah, to the Lord of heaven and earth
Hallelujah, to the Lord of heaven and earth

God of Wonders beyond our galaxy, You are holy, holy;
The universe declares Your majesty. You are holy, holy
Lord of heaven and earth, Lord of Heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth, Lord of Heaven and earth

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children of all ages are welcome to come and gather close to the screen to join in a message just for them! After we pray together, they will be invited to rejoin others in their home for the readings.

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.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

A reading from the Psalms.

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

Word of God, word of life.

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.

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.

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 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

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Come Just as You Are* by Joseph Sabolick

Come just as you are, hear the Spirit call. Come just as you are

Come and see (*come and see*) come receive (*come receive*)

Come and live (*come and live*) forever

Life everlasting, and strength for today, Taste the Living Water, and never thirst again

Come just as you are, hear the Spirit call. Come just as you are

Come receive (*come receive*) Christ the King (*Christ the King*)

Come and live (*come and live*) forever

Life everlasting, and strength for today, Taste the Living Water, and never thirst again

Come just as you are, hear the Spirit call. Come just as you are

Come and see (*come and see*) come receive (*come receive*)

Come and live (*come and live*) forevermore

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.**

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. We pray for leaders throughout the whole Church: for our church-wide bishop, Elizabeth, and our local bishop, William. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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. We pray for the service women and men of our country, and for peace-keepers and peace-makers everywhere. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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, that God shower compassion, let us pray. Continue to guide the work of our LEAD journey: for the community partners your Spirit has led us to, and for the deepening of a relationship with our neighbor. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the congregation gathered here, for students in their learning and educators in their teaching, for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace, let us pray. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For what remains in our hearts and minds, and what we need to hear from you. Listen to us as we offer these additional prayers, concerns, and thanksgivings to you — with our voices, in our hearts, and within this space... Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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

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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

PREPARING THE TABLE

If you will be joining in sharing the Meal of Holy Communion in your own home, now is the opportunity to prepare your home table with bread and cup.

GATHERING AROUND THE TABLE

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Together, let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed.

SHARING THE MEAL

If you are sharing in the Meal of Holy Communion by yourself or with others in your home, use the words "The body of Christ, given for you." as you share the bread with one another, and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." as you share the cup. You may choose to dip your bread into the cup, or to consume the bread and then drink from the cup.

If you are not sharing in the Meal today, please join in reflection and prayer as the music is offered, until we all gather back together.

REFLECTION SONG: *Come as You Are*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✝ keep you in peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *How Great Is Our God* by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves & Ed Cash

The splendor of the King, Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice, All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light, And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice, And trembles at His voice

Chorus

How great is our God, Sing with me How great is our God
And all will see how great, How great, is our God

And age to age He stands, And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one, Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb, The Lion and the Lamb

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the Light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

OFFERING

God has given us so much! The Offering is the opportunity for us to share some of those gifts for the work of the church and the needs of the world. Thank you for your generosity!

We encourage you to contribute your offering to help sharing in the ongoing mission and work of the church through making an online offering at www.stpaulslutherville.org. You can also mail your offerings in to the church office - we have a secured mailbox which is checked regularly.

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Thank you for helping to lead our worship service this morning!

Reader, First Lesson	Joan Pugh
Reader, Psalm	Anne South
Reader, Second Lesson	Joan Pugh
Prayer Leader	Anne South
Contemporary Musician, Guitar	Steve Dooley