

# Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2024

10:15 am

## Prelude

## Welcome

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.

## Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection*

God, our rock and refuge, **we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn: ELW #445

**"Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"**

- 1. Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow. Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago. Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light. Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.**
- 2. We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk my we be fed. Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread. God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.**
- 3. Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways! To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise! We your people stand before you, water washed and Spirit born. By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!**

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## Prayer of the Day

**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.**

## *Readings and Psalm*

### **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.*

<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.

### **Psalm: Psalm 29**

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

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

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

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

<sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<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 makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

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

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

### **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.*

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He 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." <sup>3</sup>Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup>Paul 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." <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—<sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia.* A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved,\* with whom I am well pleased." *Alleluia.* (Matt. 3:17)

The Holy Gospel according to the book of Mark, beginning with the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **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.*

<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**

### **Hymn of the Day: ELW #423 "Shall We Gather at the River"**

**1. Shall we gather at the river, where bright angels feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?**

Refrain: **Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.**

**2. On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.** Refrain

**3. Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;  
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.** Refrain

**4. Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.** Refrain

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## **Apostle's 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.**

## **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **Offering**

**Offering Hymn ELW #686 "We Give Thee But Thine Own" 1<sup>st</sup> verse**

- 1. We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

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## **Offering Prayer**

**Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

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.**

## **Preface**

## **Thanksgiving at the Table**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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**

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

### **Communion Distribution Hymn: ELW #471**

#### ***"Let Us Break Bread Together"***

- 1. Let us break bread together on our knees.  
Let us break bread together on our knees.**

*Refrain:* **When I fall on my knees with my face to  
the rising sun, O Lord have mercy on me.**

- 2. Let us drink wine together on our knees.  
Let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain***

- 3. Let us praise God together on our knees.  
Let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain***

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## **Post-communion Blessing**

### **Prayer after Communion**

#### **Blessing**

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
✠ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn: ELW #673 "God, Whose Almighty Word"**

- 1. God, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard and took their flight;  
here us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day sheds not into glorious  
ray, let there be light.**
- 2. Christ, who once came to bring, on your redeeming wing, healing and sight;  
health to the troubled mind, sight were illusions blind; oh, now to  
humankind let there be light.**

3. **Spirit of truth and love, lifegiving, holy dove, speed forth your flight; move on the water's face bearing the lamp of grace, and in earth's darkest place let there be light.**
4. **Holy and blessed three, glorious Trinity, Wisdom, Love Might; boundless as ocean's tide, rolling in fullest pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.**

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## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

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