

First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Order of Worship for Sunday, January 10, 2021: Baptism of our Lord

Gathering

When he stepped into the muddy waters of the Jordan River to be baptized, Jesus fully identified with us and our human dilemma. Though he did not need a baptism of rebirth, as we do, he was baptized and God declared: "This is my Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Welcoming & Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

*In the name of the Father, and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit, **Amen.***

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.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.

*To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.***

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.***

Kyrie

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.***

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.***

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.***

*For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.***

*Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord. **Amen.***

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 your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen***

Hymn: "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" #308

1. O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light,
aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's line, King David's son,
our Lord and Savior, you have won
our hearts to serve you only! Lowly, holy!
Great and glorious,
all victorious, rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!
2. Come, precious diamond, light divine,
and deep within our hearts now shine;
there light a flame undying!
In your one body let us be
as living branches of a tree,
your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily earth's deep sadness
may perplex us and distress us,
yet with heav'nly joy you bless us.
3. Lord, when you look on us in love,
at once there falls from God above
a ray of purest pleasure.
Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood
refresh our souls with heav'nly food.
You are our dearest treasure!
Let your mercy warm and cheer us!
Oh, draw near us! For you teach us
God's own love through you has reached us.
5. Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way;
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation!
Tell the story!
Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!

Text: Elizabeth Cruciger. Public Domain

Word

Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 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. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

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

The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

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

The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightening flashes.

The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

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!"

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.

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

Reading: Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. 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.” Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” 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.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11 (*response after announcement of Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord***)

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

*(response after reading of Gospel: **Praise to you, O Christ**)*

Message

Hymn: “Baptized and Set Free” #453

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. We are people created, chosen by God.
Then we’re washed, ever gently,
in mercy and love. Sin has power no more.
Jesus opened the door
to a foundation bring healing,
and wholeness and more. | 2. We are fed and we’re nourished,
filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed.
For whatever the need, God is greater indeed;
endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need. |
| 3. We are nourished by water, all living things,
and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home,
may your presence be known;
precious river, ever flowing, now carry us home. | 4. Now with praise and thanksgiving,
we join the song. All are welcome!
We gather to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free!
From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water, baptized and set free! |

Text & Music: Cathy Skogan-Soldner. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress. Used with permission under One License #A-710041

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 again 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.

Offering/Offertory

Affirmation of Baptism

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.

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Peace *Please share a sign of peace with one another*

Sending

Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" #859

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation!
My heart is longing to offer up sweet adoration.
Melody make, dulcimer, harp, now awake.
Sound forth your praise, ev'ry nation.
2. Praise the Almighty, o'er all life so wondrously reigning,
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen? All that is needful has been
sent by God's gracious ordaining.
3. Praise the Almighty, who prospers your work and defends you;
see from the heavens the showers of mercy God sends you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do;
infinite Love here befriends you.

4. Praise the Almighty! In wonder my spirit is soaring!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises outpouring.
Let the amen sound from God's people again,
gladly forever adoring!

Text: Joahcim Neander. © 2000 Augsburg Fortress. Used with permission under One License #A-710041

Benediction

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Remember in your prayers

Mick Rose, those affected by COVID-19, those working in our hospitals and care centers, those who serve in the military, families of victims of war, terrorism and violence, those in our nursing homes and those who are homebound. Continue to pray for the overseas missionary we support, Pastor Alex LaChappelle serving as a pastor of Nairobi International Lutheran in Kenya, Africa. Note: you may honor a loved one and support Pastor LaChappelle in Kenya. Contact the church office for information.