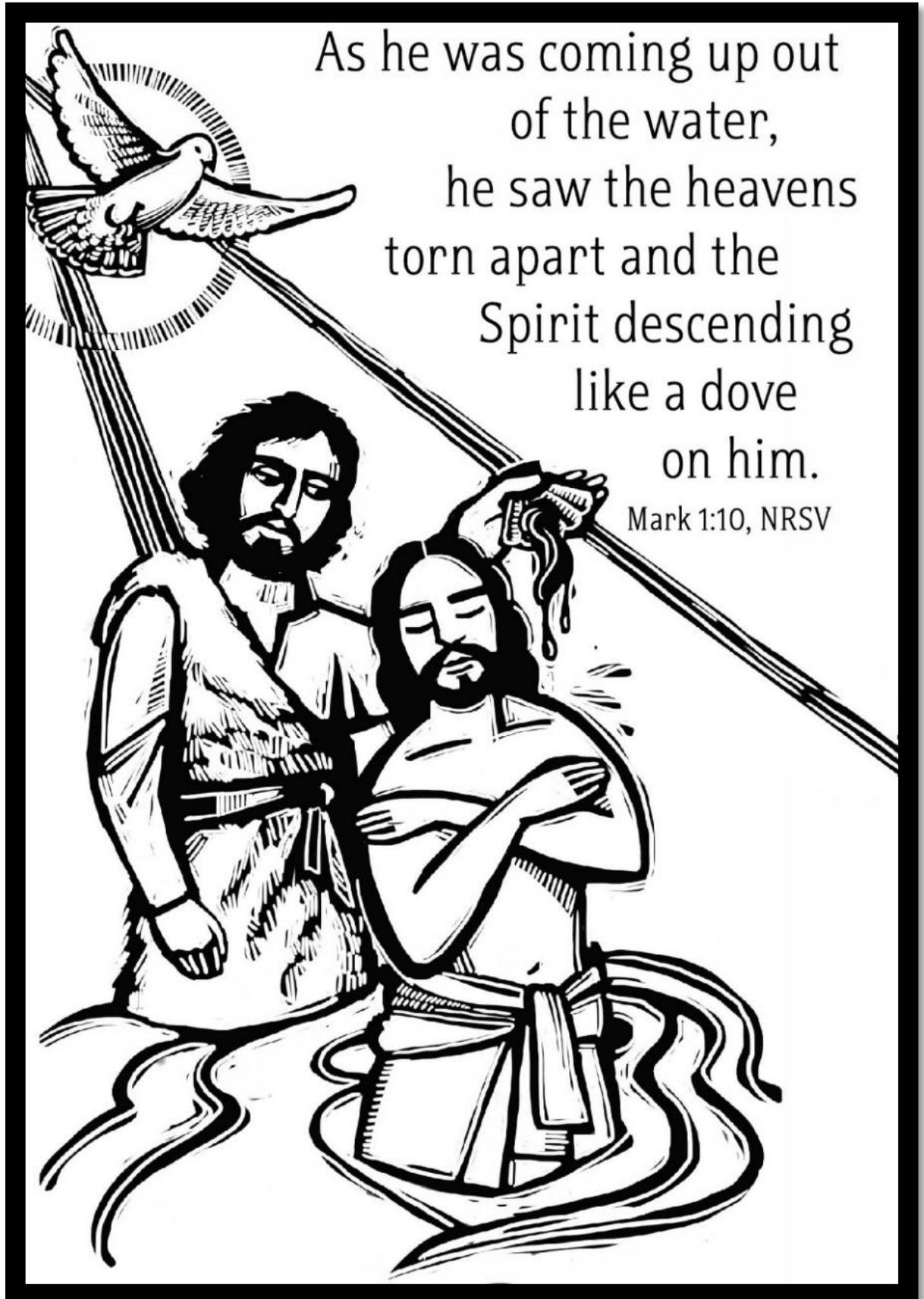


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 2021



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany

◆ Immanuel

◆ Lunder

◆ Silver Lake

◆ Winnebago

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Every member of the Parish

Bill Peters

Randy Baldwin

Baptism of Our Lord

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THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

We joyfully welcome all who gather here this morning as we celebrate the life and the revealing of Jesus. A special welcome to all guests and visitors, please sign our guest register in the narthex. Jesus came into our world to live among God's people and invites each of us to come, see, and experience the gift of life he brings.

COME AND SEE!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.

(Stand as you are able)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ **GATHERING** ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Mark told of God's personal words of love to Jesus after his baptism by John. We long to hear God's words addressed to us, but too often we are so overwhelmed by uncertainty about the future, or feelings of powerlessness in the present, that we fail to recognize God speaking to us either personally or through the forces of nature. We long to hear God's words addressed to us as people beloved by God.

Forgive us for listening to - and believing - voices that call us worthless and unlovable.

Hear God's words speak louder: "You are my beloved sons and daughters"

(silent reflection)

Loving and merciful God, forgive us when we allow our fears and our worries to stifle your voice of love. As you spoke so clearly to Jesus, speak to us also so that your words of love resonate in every corner of our being and we know that we too are your beloved, on whom your favour rests.

This we pray in Jesus's name. Amen

***EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

Our assurance of knowing the peace and joy of God's forgiveness is found in belief in the One baptized by John and identified by God in the words: "You are my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Know therefore that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

***OPENING SONG**

"Borning Cry"

*"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."*

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 Text © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

***APOSTOLIC 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.

***SHARING THE PEACE** – *Give somebody a call today.*

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

***PRESENTATION**

As we remember and celebrate our Lord's baptism on this day, let us also remember and lift up our own baptism.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold 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. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

Blessed be God now and forever.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

Blessed be God now and forever.

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God now and forever.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom. To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

***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?

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

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

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

***SIGN OF THE CROSS**

(Make the sign of the cross on your forehead as you say these words.)

Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

***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

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.

SCRIPTURE 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.

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT 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.

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Alleluia”

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

***GOSPEL READING**

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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Kermit Singelstad

***SONG OF THE DAY** *“Children of the Heavenly Father”*

*Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.*

*God his own doth tend and nourish,
in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them,
in his mighty arms he bears them.*

*Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.*

*Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.*

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958 Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

...let us pray. Have mercy, O God.

***THE LORD’S PRAYER**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

***SENDING SONG** *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

*Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.*

*Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain*

*Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain*

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864

***THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. We are the children of God.
Thanks be to God.

✠ **THANKSGIVING** ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use Tithe.ly (electronic giving).

Postlude



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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."