

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

Baptism of Our Lord + WOV Service of Word and Prayer

Saturday, January 9, 2021

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

WELCOME

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *(2 Corinthians 13:13)*

And also with you.

In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In the Word was life,

and the life was the light of all people.

The Word became flesh and lived among us,

and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth. *(John 1)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

FIRST LESSON: 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Word of life, Jesus Christ,

all glory to you!

Word of life, Jesus Christ,

all praise to you!

Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the Scriptures.

Word of life, Jesus Christ,

all glory to you!

Word of life, Jesus Christ,

all praise to you!

GOSPEL: MARK 1:1-11

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 St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Presentation

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,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and 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.**

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.

THE PRAYERS

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.

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 those we name before you now ... [*as names from the prayer list are read, please share the names of those people you are praying for in the comment section*], 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.

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.

PEACE

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. (*2 Corinthians 13:11*)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

We give our offerings in praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ and for the sake of Jesus' ongoing mission and ministry in this world. We have been entrusted to carry out this mission Jesus' name, bringing the good news of Jesus to the people of this community and around the world. Please, take a minute of your time to make an electronic gift through the St. Paul's Website www.stpauls-edison.org/online-giving.html. Please consider making this gift a recurring gift, and look for ways to grow in your giving for the sake of Christ's

mission through this congregation in 2021. You may also mail your offering to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 445 Old Post Rd., Edison NJ 08817.

OFFERTORY

Glory to you, God,

**for yours is the earth;
yours is the promise,
the blessing, the birth.**

**Ours the rejoicing for Word given frame;
ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.
Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;
yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.**

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

in the mystery of the Word made flesh,
you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity.
With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts
may be for many a sign of that love,
and that we may continue to share in your divine life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday afternoon Zoom Bible Study, Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. (Sign up to join the conversation: <https://calendly.com/james-krombholz/bible-and-bagels>).

Thursday evening Zoom Bible Study, Thursday at 7:00 p.m. (Sign up to join the conversation: <https://calendly.com/james-krombholz/thursday-evening-bible-study>).

Bedtime Prayers on Zoom. Every evening at 9:00 p.m. (e-mail PastorJim2006@icloud.com to request log in links and/or phone number)

In-Person Gatherings. The St. Paul's community will continue to gather online as its primary place of assembly until the risk of developing and spreading COVID-19 is greatly diminished. To supplement our online gatherings, we are offering an in-person service indoors on Saturday evenings. Our Sunday morning services will continue online, live-streamed at 10:00 a.m. on Facebook and available on YouTube and the St. Paul's Web site on Sunday afternoon.

For these services we ask that you sign up in advance so we know who and how many people are planning to attend. To sign up to attend, please use the registration link in the e-mail announcement, your virtual bulletin and on the St. Paul's Website, or by calling the church office. We are asking that all who attend, in-person services abide by these three simple rules: 1) Always wear a face covering; 2) Maintain social distancing by giving your neighbor at least six-feet of personal space; 3) Treat your fellow worshipers with love and respect by actively looking out for their safety and well being.

2021 Budget Meetings: The church council is hosting three budget presentation meetings on Zoom on Sundays at 1:00 p.m., January 17, January 24, and January 31. At these meetings, we will walk through the 2020 financial report and look at a budget for 2021. There are a number of challenges before us in 2021, please prayerfully consider how you might grow in your giving to help us respond to these challenges.

ZOOM log-in information:

Meeting ID: 871 5553 3287 + Passcode: 435233

Phone-in number: +1 646 558 8656

Call Your Neighbors: In these cold, dark days of winter, we need to do all we can to maintain connections. Continue to call and pray for your St. Paul's friends and consider reaching out to St. Paul members you do not know. Send a card or give a call to the people who surround you in the membership directory, ask them how they are and how you can pray with them in these coming weeks.

BLESSING

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing.

Amen

May the God of faithfulness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen (*Romans 15*)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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