

Faith Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 10, 2021
Baptism of Our Lord

Welcome

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly

**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.**

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

**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.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW #458 *"Praise and Thanksgiving be to God"*

Opening Prayer

Please join me in the 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

- Genesis 1:1-5 God creates light God creates light
- Psalm 147:12-20 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)
- Acts 19:1-7 Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus

The Holy Gospel according to 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.

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

Grace, Mercy, and Peace from God our Father and Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Today I would like to begin with few words about Epiphany. The actual day of the Epiphany of our Lord, is celebrated on January 6th. On this day we recall the star that brought the wise men to worship the Christ-Child. The word Epiphany means "appearance," "manifestation" or "revealing." Through out this season we will hear more about Jesus living among us and what it means for us in our daily lives.

Today is the feast of the baptism of our Lord, the first Sunday after Epiphany. On this day, we learn that John the Baptist, went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism and repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Many people came to him to be baptized.

Martin Luther says, "Remember your baptism!" So how do we remember our baptism? What does that mean to us?

I believe when Martin Luther says, remember your baptism, he means remember the promises of God in our lives. The promises to be called children of God, the grace of God given to us freely at the time of baptism. Through baptism we become one body in Christ. We are one in Christ, as we gather with the Word, Water, Wine, and Bread. Baptism is a significant part of our faith journey as Christians. Every time we gather at the baptismal font and the communion table, we remember our baptismal covenant, made with God and with one another, that we are children of God, and one body in Christ.

The liturgy for the affirmation of Baptism describes the faith practices that grow out of our baptism (*Evangelical Lutheran worship pg. 236*). We are to "**Live** among God's faithful people; **hear** the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through Word and deed; **serve** all people following the example of Jesus; and **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth.

Today's Gospel text talks about Jesus' Baptism. The definition of baptism is a "washing, rebirth, renewal, and right to become children of God." Some people understand it as being "born again in Christ." It is a seal of God that makes us worthy to be called God's children. Every time we return to the baptismal waters, it reminds us of God's promises and His everlasting love towards us.

I remember the words we always say during a baptism, “*Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.*” Healing and peace found in baptismal water is extraordinary miracle that God offers each one of us. It is only through baptism that we are deeply rooted in Christ and Christ always remain in us. We are filled with the knowledge of goodness and love of Christ through the anointment we receive at the time of baptism. This seal of Holy Spirit marks our total belonging to Christ and the Church. Being baptized as a baby I believe I was sanctified in God’s grace and salvation.

Baptism challenges us to think about why Jesus received baptism. Jesus had no reason to repent... because Jesus is God and did not have sin. He is the creator, almighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace and above all, He is the Son of God. So what significance does His baptism have for us?

I think by being baptized, Jesus shows us that he fully identifies with us as humans, with all humanity, with all of us, especially those who are marginalized, oppressed, discriminated or pushed aside.

In that crowd, where Jesus came to be baptized.....there were people of every class, every order, every nationality perhaps. There were Gentiles, rich and poor, different ages and genders. And Jesus came to be one with all of them. In this way, Jesus identifies himself with all of them. And even today Jesus identifies Himself with all us...who are baptized in Christ.

That is the good news for today....that Jesus came for all of us. Jesus came to transform our lives, transform the world.

One of my favorite professors described the baptism of Jesus this way: He said “when Jesus entered the waters of Jordan for baptism, he was not baptized by the water....rather, his baptism was one in which all the created waters of this world were baptized by Him.”

So we see Jesus identifies Himself with all of us and finds Himself among us. As if Jesus is reminding us....do not be afraid, I am with you, and I am by your side.

There is a famous story in the Korean community regarding baptism that one of my seminary colleague shared with us in one of our class. The story goes like this:

In the early days of mission work in Korea, a page or two of the Gospel story of Baptism was found in a remote mountain village. The people in the community read..... What was written and accepted the message. But they did not have a pastor to lead them or to give them baptism. So the people knew only what was written on those pages. But they did not know just how it should be done. They talked it over, after prayer and discussion. They went home and each took a personal, private bath, or we can say immersed themselves into their bathing tub....in the name of our Triune God. And they were baptized.”

Who can say that, God did not accepted their interpretation of that symbol... of a cleansed life?

During one our discussions about baptism of Jesus in a study group, we discovered different ways of doing baptism. Some people visit the lake to get baptized and some do immersion baptism. Some prefer sprinkling of water. Different people might have different ways of doing baptism.....whatever way we are baptized, I believe God loves us, and God remembers that we are His children.

When Jesus was baptized, there came a voice from heaven. It was God’s declaration concerning Jesus, “you are my Son, whom I am well pleased.” It is the divine declaration of Jesus as the Messiah. It is the declaration that Jesus is the Son of God and savior of whole humanity.....and God is well pleased by Him. This is God’s declaration to humankind of the mystery of Triune God at the baptism of Jesus.

This signifies Jesus’ identity and mission. This is why Jesus came into this world. At His baptism Jesus received assurance from heaven of His identity and the nature of His mission. His baptism reminds us of our own identity and mission in our lives. It reminds us of our own baptism and God’s promises made at our baptism. Through our baptism in Christ, we are able to identify ourselves with Christ. We are called His daughters and sons. Baptism establishes our relationship with God and reminds us of His everlasting grace and assurance in our lives.

Today I encourage you to take time to thank God for the gift of baptism and reflect on the importance of baptism in your lives. May our God be with us forevermore?

Amen.

Peace

The peace of the lord be with you always
and also with you. Amen.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

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. *A brief silence.*

For the church throughout the world and its leaders, especially the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and all congregations, our national Bishop, Elizabeth, our synodical Bishop Katherine, and our pastor Rita, 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.

We pray to you almighty God, in this time of civil unrest. You are our refuge and our strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Do not let us fall in the face of these events. Uphold us with your love, and give us the strength we need. Heal the hurt, console the bereaved and afflicted. Give wisdom to our leaders, 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. Please lift up Beverly Tankersly, Pastor Matthew Lamb, Connie Mattson, Lori Strickland, Eric Marken, Eva Mohr, Al Picotte, Bill Duff, Bill Vaneffen, Sandra Kaye, Tom Krause, Lois Stoppel, Teri DePlonty, and the family and friends of Dan Doran. For whom and what else do we pray silently or out loud? (Pause...), 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.**

Offering

It is generally at this time during the service that worshipers are invited to share their gifts for the Mission and Ministry of the church. Whether you choose to pause at this time or make your contribution following this service, we encourage you to continue your support of the ministry. We are grateful for the community's continued generous support especially during these trying times.

Offertory Prayer (please join in prayer)

Let us pray:

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like Parents receive their children, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

Our Lord's Prayer

I invite you to join in praying the prayer our Lord 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

Benediction

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

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you!

Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn: ELW #671 “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Sources:

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VIRTUAL AFTER SERVICE COFFEE HOUR

Join us on Jan 10, 2020 at 11:30 AM for a
Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom, following Sunday's service.

1. Go to www.zoom.us
2. Along the top towards the right corner, click on “**Join A Meeting**”

Enter the following information when asked for it...

Meeting ID: **897 9656 1726**

Passcode: **885647**

If not using a computer or smartphone, you can join by simply calling in and following the prompts.

Phone number: **1(301)715-8592**

(enter this information when asked)

Meeting ID: **89796561726#**

Participant ID: **0#**

Passcode: **885647#**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖ **Pastor Rita is available for any pastoral needs by phone, email, and Zoom!** ❖

If you would like to speak with Pastor Rita, please call or email her at.

(312) 478-6212 or critawilliam@gmail.com

From there if you'd like to set up a Zoom meeting, just ask!

❖ **In-person Worship Services at Faith are suspended through January 31st.** ❖

The situation will be assessed again on January 26th, and we will notify you if the suspension of in-person service is lifted or if it is extended.

Faith's Annual Meeting will be held February 14, 2021. There are 3 seats to be filled on the council this year. If you are interested please get your information in to the office or to a Council Member. We also need 2 delegates to represent us for the Synod Assembly. More information will be available shortly.

❖ **ANNUAL REPORT TIME!**

If you are responsible for a committee which is included in the Annual Report, please get a report in to the office as soon as possible when 2020 ends. **The deadline is January 31st.** Reports can be emailed to faithlc1966@att.net with the subject "Annual Report". If you have any questions, please contact Sean in the office (906) 632-7246

Watch Faith's Worship Service Live on Sundays on our Facebook page! - You can catch our Service at 10:20am every Sunday at www.facebook.com/FaithLC1966. You can also find us online by searching for **FaithLC1966** in any browser. If you have any questions or comments, please call the church office at (906) 632-7246.

THANK YOU to everyone who purchased a wreath this year. We managed to raise almost \$200 for our youth here at Faith. Thank you and have a Happy New Year!!



FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP

Epiphany Virtual Worship Service

Lighting the Way

A celebration of Christ's light through
90 years of ministry together!

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Worship with the Fortune Lake
Association churches

In appreciation for your creativity throughout this pandemic, we invite you to share the link to this worship experience with your communities. Take a week off from worship planning! The link will be available on the Fortune Lake YouTube channel by Saturday, January 9. Questions? Call 906-214-2267 or email campdirector@fortunelake.org