

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

United with Christ

January 10, 2021



AS WE GATHER

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. Such a day is also a good time to remember our own Baptism. In Baptism, we are buried with Christ. We are united with Him in a death like His. In Baptism, we are also raised to new life as re-creations. As we are united to Christ in death, we will also be united with Him in resurrection when He returns and raises the dead.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

#397

INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Genesis 1:1–2; Psalm 29:3–4*

Leader: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

People: **And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**

Leader: And God said, “Let there be light.”

People: **The voice of the Lord is over the waters.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord is powerful.
People: **The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord reveals Jesus as His Son.
People: **The voice of the Lord reveals we are His children too.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: In Holy Baptism, each of us was baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In Baptism, we were united with Christ. Yet, we have often lived as if we were entirely independent and autonomous. We have lived as if our identity were not in Jesus, but in our own selfish desires. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to turn back to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

Leader: Heavenly Father,
People: **we confess that we are by nature sinful and have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. On account of Jesus, forgive us, renew us, and unite us to Your name.**

Leader: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. In Baptism, you were united to Christ in both His death and resurrection. You were buried with Him, but also raised to walk in newness of life. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. We are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

☩ **WORD** ☩

HYMN OF PRAISE “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” #394 vs. 1,2,4

SALUTATION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you once made known to all nations your only-begotten Son; now lead us, who know you by faith, to know in heaven the fullness of your divine goodness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

³ And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,^[a]

because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,

the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL *Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*

Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol Him, all peoples!
For great is His steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
bring an offering, and come into His courts!

EPISTLE Ephesians 1:3-16

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶ This mystery is^[a] that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the

mystery hidden for ages in^[b] God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 2:2-12*

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose^[b] and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary

Leader: 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:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For this holy house and for all who in faith, piety and love come to receive His gifts and praise His name, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For all families and homes, that one generation may tell to the next the wonderful works of God in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For our president; our governor; all our leaders; our legislature and Congress; those elected and preparing to begin service to our nation; and our military, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: *[Local petitions may be inserted here]*, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For all women with child and all mothers with infant children, that they would have joyful fruition and success, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the sick and sorrowful, for those who mourn, and for all who stand in need of our prayers, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Lord God, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to join in the feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: We sing our Lord's Prayer:

"Lord's Prayer"

HFG 440

**Our Father, which 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

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26

People: **Amen.**

HYMN

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

#922

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Worship Leader: Pastor James Schroeder
Music Leader: Daniel M. Meyers
Organist: Sharilyn Rotta

St. John's Lutheran Church

Ludington, Michigan 49431

<http://www.stjohnslutheranchurch.org>

231-843-9188

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Holy Communion is shared on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.