

January 10, 2021  
Baptism of our Lord

9:00 a.m.

Christ Lutheran Church  
2610 Campbell Street • Valparaiso, Indiana 46385 • (219) 462-6660  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

*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.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### **WELCOME**

*If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card](#). If you'd like to provide a reading or greeting, [sign up here](#). May the peace of the risen Christ be with you!*

*A special welcome this morning to our neighbors at **Trinity Lutheran in Valparaiso**. We are grateful to be partners in ministry with you and to worship at this time together.*

### **PRELUDE**

*Praeludium in G*

J.S. Bach

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*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,  
whose voice is upon the waters,  
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,  
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**you search us and know us.**  
**You are acquainted with all our ways.**  
**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—**  
**our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**  
**We turn inward, failing to follow**  
**your outward way of love.**  
**We distrust those who are not like us.**  
**We exploit the earth and its resources**  
**and fail to consider generations to come.**  
**Forgive us, gracious God,**  
**for all we have done and left undone.**  
**Even before the words are on our tongues,**  
**you know them;**  
**receive them in your divine mercy.**  
**Amen.**

How vast is God's grace!  
 Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,  
 our sins are washed away  
 and we are claimed as God's own beloved.  
 Indeed, we are forgiven.  
 In the wake of God's forgiveness,  
 we are called to be the beloved community  
 living out Christ's justice  
 and the Spirit's reconciling peace.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN #458**      *Praise & Thanksgiving Be to God*



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing be to God our  
 2 Not our own ho - li - ness, nor that we have  
 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come in vis - i -  
 4 Praise to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



mak - er, source of all bless - ing, prod - i - gal cre -  
 striv - en brings us the peace which you, O Christ, have  
 ta - tion; you are the truth, our hope, and our sal -  
 Spir - it: one Lord, one faith, one source of ev - 'ry



a - tor. Bap - tized and made your own, now we come be -  
 giv - en. Bap - tized and set a - part, strength - en us, O  
 va - tion. Bap - tize with joy and pow'r, give, O Dove de -  
 mer - it. Here now re - new your church through this sym - bol



fore you, and we a - dore you.  
 Sav - ior, with grace and fa - vor.  
 scend - ing, life nev - er end - ing.  
 giv - en; grant peace from heav - en.

Text: H. Francis Yardley, 1911–1990; Frank J. Whiteley, b. 1914, alt.  
 Music: CHRISTE SANCTORUM, Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681  
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**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.**

*Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.*  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

God of the tearing heavens,  
whose holiness is unveiled  
by one who is submerged  
in all the pain and sin of earth:  
give us faith to follow him  
who goes to the heart of darkness  
bearing only the Spirit  
of gentle, insistent peace;  
through Jesus Christ, the promised one.  
**Amen.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song  
When children read, they may read a version that is appropriate to their reading level and voice,  
which will vary from the printed texts.*

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

### **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.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God 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.**

### **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 lightning 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.

**HOLY GOSPEL: 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.**

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>And 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**

**THANKSGIVING**

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 you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for this water before us, and for all water everywhere, especially the waters around us -- the wetlands here along Vale Park Road, Salt Creek and Beauty Creek, Loomis, Spectacle, Flint, and Long Lakes to the North, Silver, Sager, and Louise Lakes to the South, the Little Calumet and Kankakee Rivers, and our Lake Michigan. As you give us water in abundance, bathe us in your abundant forgiveness and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

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

**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.**

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.**



- 1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,
- 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,
- 3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,
- 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.  
 wash - ing off the chains of bond - age— chan - nel to a life made new.  
 o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.  
 Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: STUTT GART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876  
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## NOTE ABOUT OFFERINGS

*During this time of physical distancing, your congregation continues to serve: keeping us connected, caring for one another, holding our building ready for our return, supporting our staff and those they serve. Your offerings make that happen. This month a portion is given to **First Contact, Inc.** <http://firstcontactinc.org> and **Mike Steiner Special Needs Memorial Fund.***

*We have multiple ways to receive our offerings during this time of coronavirus. Offerings can be given online at <http://clcvalpo.org/give>, by texting 'CLCVALPO' to 77977, by US Mail to 2610 Campbell St., or by dropping an envelope in the locked box outside Door #3 facing the High School.*

*If you have been impacted by the coronavirus economically, remember that your value to God, and to us, is not dependent on your financial resources. We want to walk with you and want to help; please reach out to [pastors@clcvalpo.org](mailto:pastors@clcvalpo.org). Likewise, if you know someone who has been affected, either with the virus or via the economic situation, please let us know!*

## PRAYERS

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, 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, especially the people and churches of Iran, Iraq, and Syria, 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 refugees and victims of violence, for all who suffer, that God shower compassion, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For this congregation gathered across distance, 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.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

## INVITATIONS

## BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you;

Jesus the beloved fill you;

and the Holy Spirit the comforter † keep you in peace.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN #304 *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you  
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant  
3 Straight-way and stead-fast un - til death you then o - beyed the  
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as  
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's  
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to  
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.  
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.  
give your life for all, to give your life for all.  
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

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It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



The musical score for 'SANCTUS' is written in treble clef with a 6/8 time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the One who comes, who Bless - ed is he who comes in the name, comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.' The word 'All' is written above the first staff. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and bar lines.

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## TABLE PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER

*Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as 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 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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Beloved, wherever you are; here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus.

Come to Jesus and be fed.

**Thanks be to God.**

The body of Christ, given for you.

**Amen** (*receive the bread*)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen** (*receive the cup*)

## **PRAYER AFTR COMMUNION**

Christ Jesus,

at this table we have feasted on your very life

and are strengthened for our journey.

Send us forth from this banquet

nourished in body and in spirit

to proclaim your good news

and serve others in your name.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

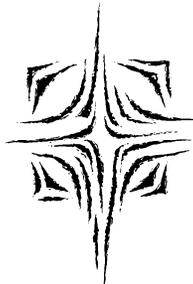
Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Allegro moderato*

Mendelssohn



## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Iran, Iraq, Syria**

We are **thankful** for:

- the resilience of the people who remain in their homelands even when they face constant threats and ongoing violence
- the relief and assistance that has been provided to so many
- those who have made a new home for refugees fleeing from these countries
- those who have worked continually for peace, justice and reconciliation.

We **pray** for:

- an end to the violence racking these battlefields of global powers
- political leaders emerging in these countries who will pursue peace, the common good, and human rights of all groups
- the international community to pursue policies that will result in acceptable, just peace for all involved
- greater openness to welcoming those displaced or fleeing from these lands, desperately seeking safety and wellbeing.

### *Stewardship Snippet*

*“[Paul] 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.’ ”– Acts 19:2*

As we celebrate the baptism of Jesus and recall our own initiation into God’s family, we can be confident that God works within us, giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit, and equipping us to be faithful disciples who are well in body, mind, and spirit.

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

### 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."

Pastor: Rev. Erica Gibson-Even  
Director of Music Ministries: Brian Bartusch  
Sound: Adam Gibson-Even  
Reader: Phil Hahn