



**DOVE OF
PEACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Sunday
January 10, 2021
The Baptism of Our
Lord

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The Baptism of Our Lord

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

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.

PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

*Christ unser Herr, zum Jordan kamm (When Jesus came to Jordan), BWV 684
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

Our prologue this morning is based on the Hymn of the Day. Christ unser herr was written by Martin Luther and is intended to serve as a chorale that explains the Lutheran Catechism on Baptism. Luther gave a series of sermons on Baptism during the Easter Week of 1540, and it is likely this hymn was composed for the occasion. It has been set numerous times throughout music history, particularly by Baroque composers. This is perhaps the finest keyboard arrangement of the tune, taken from J. S. Bach's Clavier-Übung III, a collection of chorale preludes based on hymns from the Lutheran service and Luther's Large and Small Catechism. The hands are centered around a flowing 16th note figure representing the waters of the Jordan river, above which is layered a two part contrapuntal conversation based on the hymn tune, while the tune is played in long notes in the pedal.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.



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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GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

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 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.

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.

PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 29

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



Psalm 29:3

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹Ascribe to the | Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glo- | ry and strength.
- ²**Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due God’s name;
worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness.**
- ³The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the | mighty waters.
- ⁴**The voice of the Lord is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a | voice of splendor. REFRAIN**
- ⁵The voice of the Lord breaks the | cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;
- ⁶**the Lord makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**
- ⁷The voice | of the Lord
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.
- ⁸**The voice of the Lord | shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. REFRAIN**
- ⁹The 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!”
¹⁰**The Lord sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**
¹¹O Lord, give strength | to your people;
give them, O Lord, the bless- | ings of peace. **REFRAIN**

SECOND 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.

A reading from Acts.

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

ELW #169

The assembly sings the Alleluia before and after the gospel verse.



Cantor: A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, | the Beloved,*
with whom I | am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17)

GOSPEL: Mark 4:1-11

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 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.

SERMON

Pastor Steve Springer



1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John,
 2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,
 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;



he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.
 for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.
 this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond-age break.



He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,
 So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,
 Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:



to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
 the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
 to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition: "Lord in your mercy," the assembly responds "**Hear our prayer.**"

Let us pray again for the church, the world and for all those in need.

We pray for the church:

O Gd, because we have come to say that the church rises to life in Baptism, we pray, breath on and speak in our sacraments that they be always a means of grace. One by one baptize us daily with your Spirit, that signed by the cross, we find the sacred wisdom to live in forgiveness and hope.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Gd, immerse us in your grace and transform us by your Holy Spirit, that raised into Xp we follow the journey which repairs lives and shines to your glory.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world:

O Gd, the appointed Psalm for today declares and invites us to repeat,

The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice, the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor, a voice to impact the world and shape events. Such a confession leads us to pray, as we do now in these days of troubling disorder: Lord, let us hear that voice.

Let us hear that voice:

Call out, redirect, correct, as with a force of nature, those who with deceit and arrogant disregard lay harm on others.

Let us hear that voice:

Show those who crave power that high over their oppressions and posturings you are forever enthroned to bring truth and create good order on this earth.

And yet, O Lord, lead us to hear and follow the voice given to us, spoken as a word made flesh, spoken in the mystery of Xp, the living voice that calls all people to the way of peace that comes in repentance and renewal.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need:

O Gd, let your spirit be present for suffering people. Speak to them, call them by name and let them hear your voice that says, "I am with you, you are my beloved." O Gd, walk to a safe place people wandering, desperate and in danger. Hear us Lord, as we pray for those not known to us and as we pray for those we do know and would name before you. ...

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Finally O Gd, we pray, let the baptismal sign of rising from death to resurrection in the mystery of Xp make clean and enliven all to a living, active faith, full of hope and love. Again, O Lord, give strength to your people, give the blessings of peace.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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.**

Come Down, O Love Divine
William Harris (1883-1973)

Sir William Henry Harris was an English organist, composer, conductor and educator best remembered for his Anglican choral music, of which today's anthem is among his finest. The 15th century text, also found in our hymnal to music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, speaks to the invocation and indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing:
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the pow'r of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling. Amen.

BLESSING

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

SENDING SONG*Crashing Waters at Creation*

ELW #455



- 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: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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EPILOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Improvisation on Lobt Gott ihr Christen (Praise God, all Christians)

Lobt Gott ihr Christen is a German Christmas carol written by Nikolaus Herman in the 1560s. The tune appears in our hymnal a few times, notably with the original text as "Let All Together Praise Our God" in the Christmas section of the hymnal, and as we sang for our Gathering Song, "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized." The tune itself is based on the Gregorian Chant introit for Christmas Day. Today, for our Epilogue, our organist offers a series of improvised variations on the tune.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Assisting Minister: John Hoelter
Lector: Dianne Huston
Cantor: Eric Holtan