

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



## THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

**JANUARY 9 & 10, 2021**

**Pastor's Bulletin**

(No Congregational bulletin due to Pandemic precautions)

~~~~~ GATHERING ~~~~~

**Psalm 46:1-11**

Pastor: <sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength,

**People: a very present help in trouble.**

Pastor: <sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

**People: though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

Pastor: <sup>3</sup>though its waters roar and foam,

**People: though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

Pastor: <sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

**People: the holy habitation of the Most High.**

Pastor: <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

**People: God will help it when the morning dawns.**

Pastor: <sup>6</sup>The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;

**People: he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

Pastor: <sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;

**People: the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Pastor: <sup>8</sup>Come, behold the works of the LORD;

**People: see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**

Pastor: <sup>9</sup>He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

**People: he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.**

Pastor: <sup>10</sup>"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among  
the nations,

**People: I am exalted in the earth."**

Pastor: <sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;

**People: the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

***GREETING***

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the  
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

**GATHERING SONG - "On Jordan's Bank"**

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God  
within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor: Holy God,

**People: 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.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen**

### **A Reading From Psalm 51:6-17**

<sup>6</sup>You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

<sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

and sustain in me a willing spirit.

<sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.

<sup>14</sup>Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.

<sup>16</sup>For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

### **The Gospel according to St. Luke**

*Luke 3:1-22*

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none;

and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ**

## ***SERMON***

### ***SERMON HYMN - "You Are Mine"***

I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear. You will hear my voice. I claim you as My choice. Be still, and know I am hear,

***Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.***

I am hope for all who are hopeless. I am eyes for all who long to see the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in Me.

***Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.***

## ***APOSTLES CREED***

**People:** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. 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. Amen.

## ***SHARING OF THE PEACE***

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**People:** And also with you.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Pastor: God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**People:** Amen

## ***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE***

Pastor: 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.*

Pastor: For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, let us pray.

**People:** Have mercy, O God.

Pastor: 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.

**People:** Have mercy, O God.

Pastor: 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.

**People: Have mercy, O God.**

Pastor: 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, that God shower compassion, let us pray.

**People: Have mercy, O God.**

Pastor: For the congregation, for students, for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace, let us pray.

**People: Have mercy, O God.**

Pastor: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations, let us pray.

**People: Have mercy, O God.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

### ***LORD'S PRAYER***

Pastor: Let us pray with confidence the prayer our Lord taught us:

**People: 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.**

### ***BLESSING***

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

**People: Amen.**

### ***CLOSING HYMN – “Lord Take My Hand”***

Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life's way; direct, protect, and feed Me from day to day. Without your grace and favor I go astray; so take my hand, O Savior, and lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear; for you, the Rock of Ages, are always near. Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe, for when your hand is guiding, in peace I go.

***SENDING***

Pastor: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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