

January 10, 2021

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Global Positioning

John "the Dipper" picked his place precisely. He baptized in the river Jordan where Israel first entered the promised land some 1,200 years prior. John's baptism could be done here and only here. Like Elijah before him, John's ministry had to happen in this one exact spot: Israel's point of entry.

John's baptism was about more than the personal confession of one's sins. It was re-creating the old days. It was a preparation, pledge, and promise: that God was building a new community, that the sins of the people would be forgiven, and that God was giving his covenanted people a new beginning right back at the original starting line (the river Jordan).

When Jesus came and was baptized by John in the Jordan, the focus shifted from a place to a person. *Jesus* became "the point of entry" into God's new day and God's new age. And among all the ways that he is greater and more powerful than John, he is also greater in that he is a "worthy one" for everyone, not only for the people from the Judean countryside and the city of Jerusalem.

It was not just the heavens that got torn apart when the Spirit descended like a dove and the voice from heaven said, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." It was also all the walls, the rivers, the oceans, the hates and fears that separate people from one another and divide them into sects, tribes, and nations.

Christian baptism is not tied to a place. It is tied to a person. And so it can be done to anyone, anytime, anywhere around the globe. The baptism of Jesus proclaims that Jesus is God's GPS--God's Global Positioning System. In Jesus God positions God's own self so that God is in place to save everyone. Does that please you? It did God.

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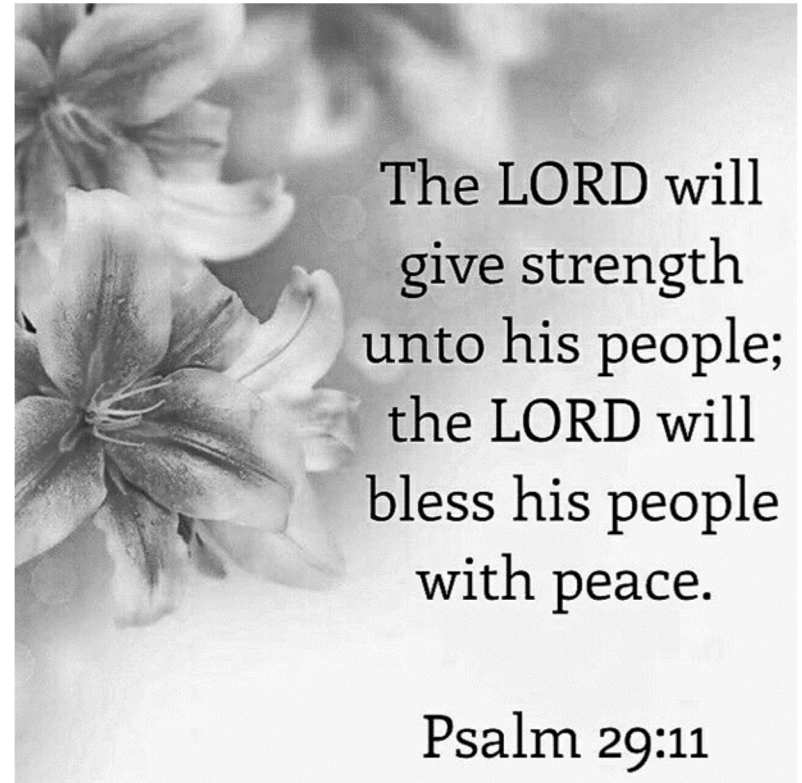
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

January 10, 2021

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

“Baptized in Water”

Pastor Rayl
No. 456
(sung by Annette)

Installation of Officers

(Please stand)

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

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,
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.

The Offering *(As you exit, please place your offering in the wooden church in the Narthex if you have not already done so.)*

Musical Offertory

Dr. Pattin

Offering Prayer

P: Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and the treasures you entrust to us. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Pastoral Prayer *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: Hear us, Lord.

C: Your mercy is great.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Dr. Pattin

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Song

“Midnight Clear”

(Praise Singers)

Invocation

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity (+) one God, Love from the beginning,
Word made flesh, Breath of heaven.

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another,
trusting in God’s endless mercy and love.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Merciful God, we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again.

C: Amen.

P: Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of (+) Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God’s love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5

To a people experiencing the chaos of defeat, devastation, and exile, these familiar words bring great comfort. Out of chaos, God brings order. Creation by command demonstrates God's absolute sovereignty, which is not shared with any other gods. Notice the sequence of "evening" and "morning"--the Jewish day begins with sunset.

In 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.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the beauty 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 powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**he makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁸**The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.**

⁹And in the temple of the LORD
all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as King forevermore.**

¹¹The LORD shall give strength to his people;
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

Just as the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus at his baptism, so early Christians recognized that the Holy Spirit would come to them when they were baptized in Jesus' name.

While 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.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Alleluia Verse "Arise, Your Light Has Come!" No. 314
(sung by Annette)

*Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.*

*Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.*

*Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.*

*Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.*

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Gospel according to St. Mark Chapter 1.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

John 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."