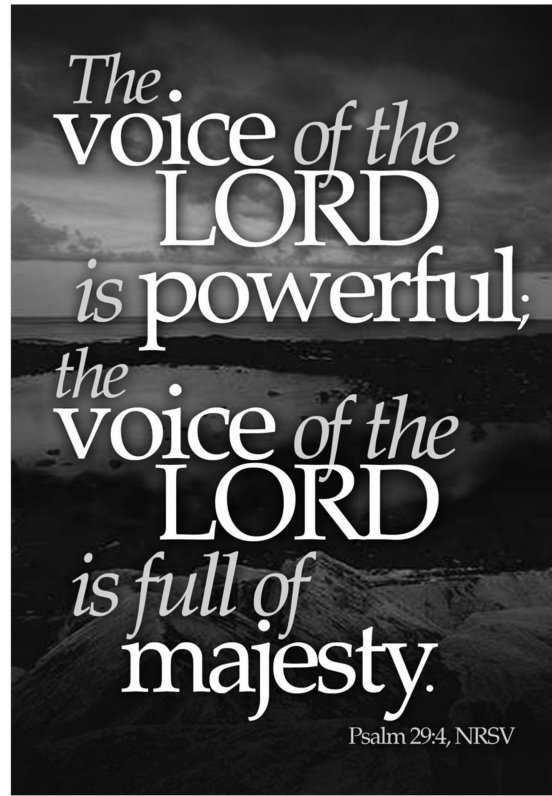


First St. John Lutheran Church
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office@firststjohn.com
www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

Dr. Joan Walldorf, Director of Music
Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician
Cheri Sergent, Bell Choir, Director
Jennifer Hess, Office Manager



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

January 7, 2024 - 10:30 am

January 7, 2024

Baptism of Our Lord

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	JAM Sunday School
9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Late Worship
11:45 am	2nd Year Catechism (<i>every other Sunday</i>)

LIVESTREAM AND RECORDED WORSHIP: We livestream the service on our church website at www.firststjohn.com. Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website

SMILE! YOU'RE ON CAMERA: Please remember you may be on camera during the livestream and the recording of the service.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please remember to silence your cell phone before church begins. Thanks!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL meets at 9:15 am in the lounge every Sunday.

CHILDREN AGES 3 THROUGH 5TH GRADE will meet at 9:15 am for Sunday School in the basement of the church (JAM Room).

2ND YEAR CATECHISM CLASSES: Second year class will meet every other Sunday at 11:45 am.

NURSERY is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

RESTROOMS are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

FLOWERS: If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the lounge. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

MEMORIALS: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office.

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude Dr. Anthony Pattin

Ring of the Bell (Please stand)

Opening Hymn “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” No. 310

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our rock and refuge,

**C: we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.**

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of (☩) Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share the peace of the Lord.

The congregation may greet one another by shaking hands, fist bumping, or any other form of greeting with the words, “Peace be with you.” We conclude the sharing of the peace by singing:

Hymn “We are Baptized in Christ Jesus” No. 451

Greeting

P: The grace given to us in Christ Jesus, the help of the Holy Spirit living in us, and the power of God who calls us with a holy purpose be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

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.

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.

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.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29 — Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**²Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

³The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.

**⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**⁶He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

**⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

**¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace

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.

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

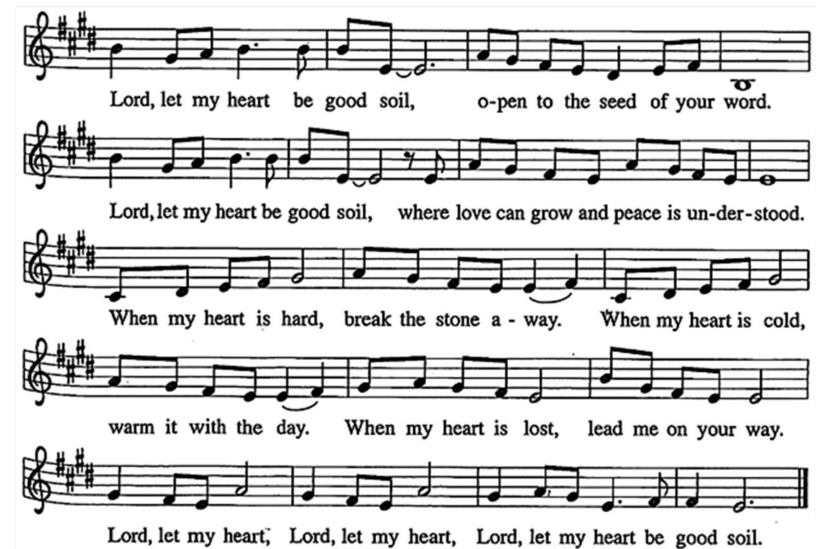
the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Announcement

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.

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.”

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn

“We Know That Christ Is Raised”

No.449

(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.

(Please be seated)

Installation of Officers

(All newly elected and currently serving officers of WELCA, Church Council, Day School Board, and Altar Guild please come forward.)

P: The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

(The pastor addresses those being installed)

P: A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

P: You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

P: You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with their whole church.

P: You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

P: You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

P: You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

(The pastor addresses those being installed)

P: On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices of which you have been elected?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

(The congregation stands. Those being installed face the congregation. The pastor addresses the congregation)

P: People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected

leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

Response: We will, and we ask God to help us.

(Those being installed face the pastor who addresses them)

P: I now declare you installed as Leaders of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants to Christ.

C: Amen

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Offertory Music

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

FSJ Chancel Choir

Dr. Joan Walldorf, Director of Music

Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician

(Please stand)

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

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

P: Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer *(prayed by all)*

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

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, (±) bless you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

"Jesus Shall Reign"

No.434

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

+++++

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Tom Hartford, Bob Hecklinger

READER

Bob Haar

SOUND BOARD

Dave Wilbarger

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY URGENT NEEDS!

We are running low on many items.

Please purchase full size items.

dish soap	shampoo, child	disposable razors
paper towel	laundry soap	toothbrush, adult
toilet paper	fabric softener sheets	toothpaste, adult
tissues	body lotion	sanitary pads
deodorant	body soap	band aids
shampoo, adult		

This is a list of the items that will provide a month's worth of hygiene supplies to families or individuals in our neighborhood to help them stay clean and healthy. We always welcome any donations from our congregation members.

If you would like to donate items, please donate only full size products as sample sizes will not last a month. If you would prefer a Pantry volunteer to do the shopping for you, we welcome monetary donations. Please make out checks to First St. John Lutheran Church and write Personal Needs Pantry on the memo line.



January 7, 2024

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.