BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 7, 2024

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Setting Three

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.

ops & Concerns

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

- **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.

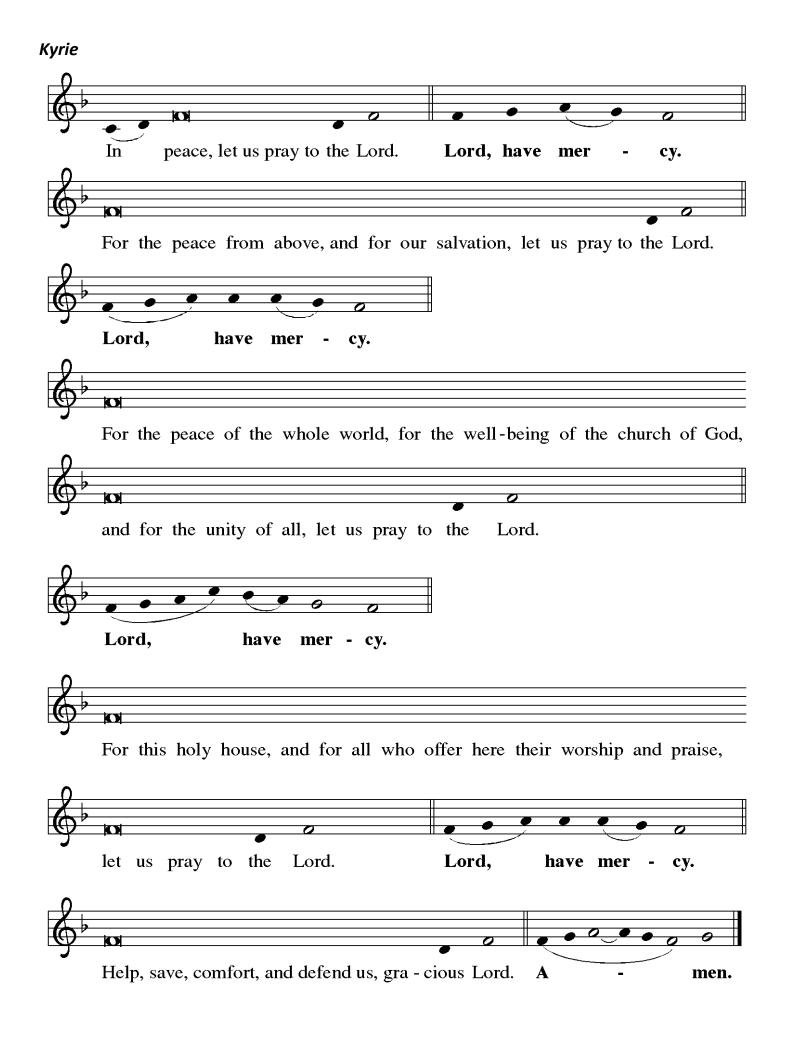
- P. God, our rock and refuge,
- C. we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that 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.

Borning Cry

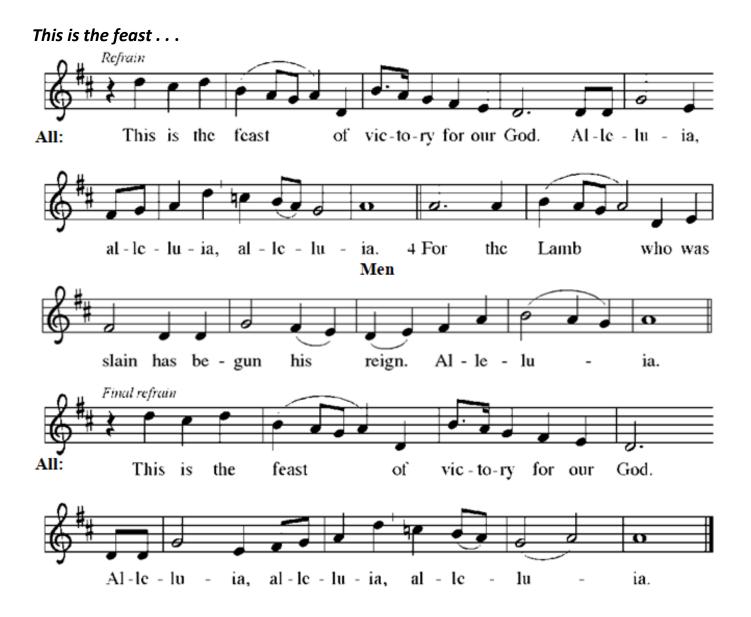
ELW 732

Greeting

- P. Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- **P.** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C. And also with you.







Prayer of the Day

- A. Let us pray
- C. 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

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.

- L. Word of God. Word of life.
- C. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

spoken responsively

¹Ascribe to the | Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glo- | ry and strength.

²Ascribe 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.

⁴The voice of the Lord is a pow- | erful voice; the voice of the Lord is a | voice of splendor. R

⁵The voice of the Lord breaks the | cedar trees; the Lord breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

> ⁶the 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.

⁸The voice of the Lord | shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. R

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!"

¹⁰The 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.

Second Reading

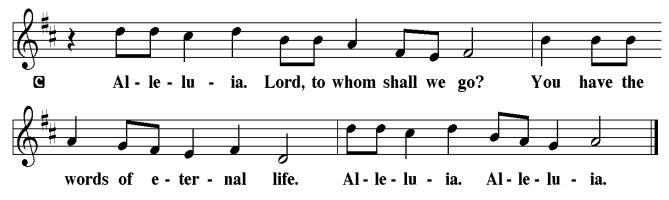
Acts 19:1-7

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.

- L. Word of God. Word of life.
- C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



P. The holy gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

C. Glory to you, O God.

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."

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

ELW 450

John Petry, Interim Pastor

Hymn of the Day

I Bind unto Myself Today

The Apostles' Creed

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



Prayers of Intercession

A. As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders (*church leaders may be named*) to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,

- C. receive our prayer.
- **A.** Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace,
- C. receive our prayer.

Other Prayers

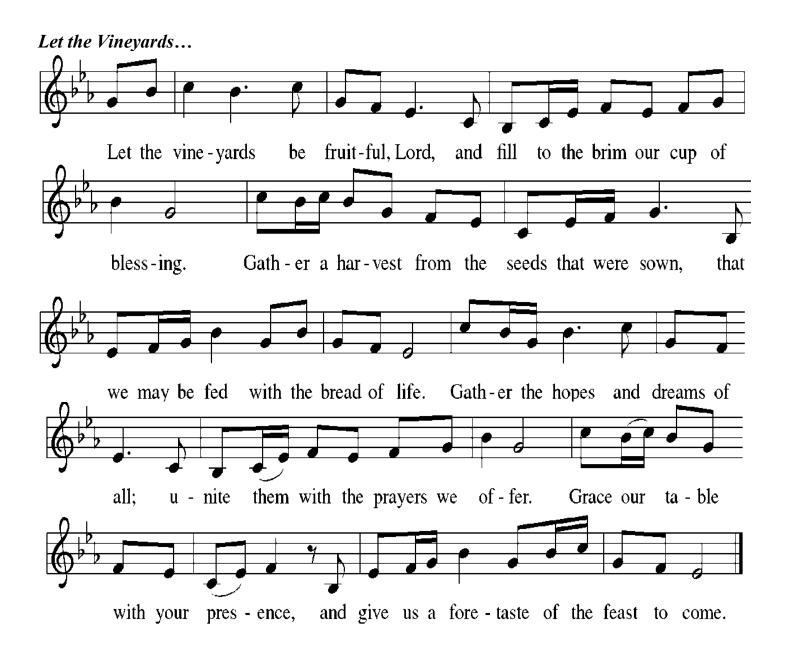
- **P.** Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
- C. Amen.

The Peace

- **P.** Jesus said, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled. May His peace be with you always.
- C. And also with you.

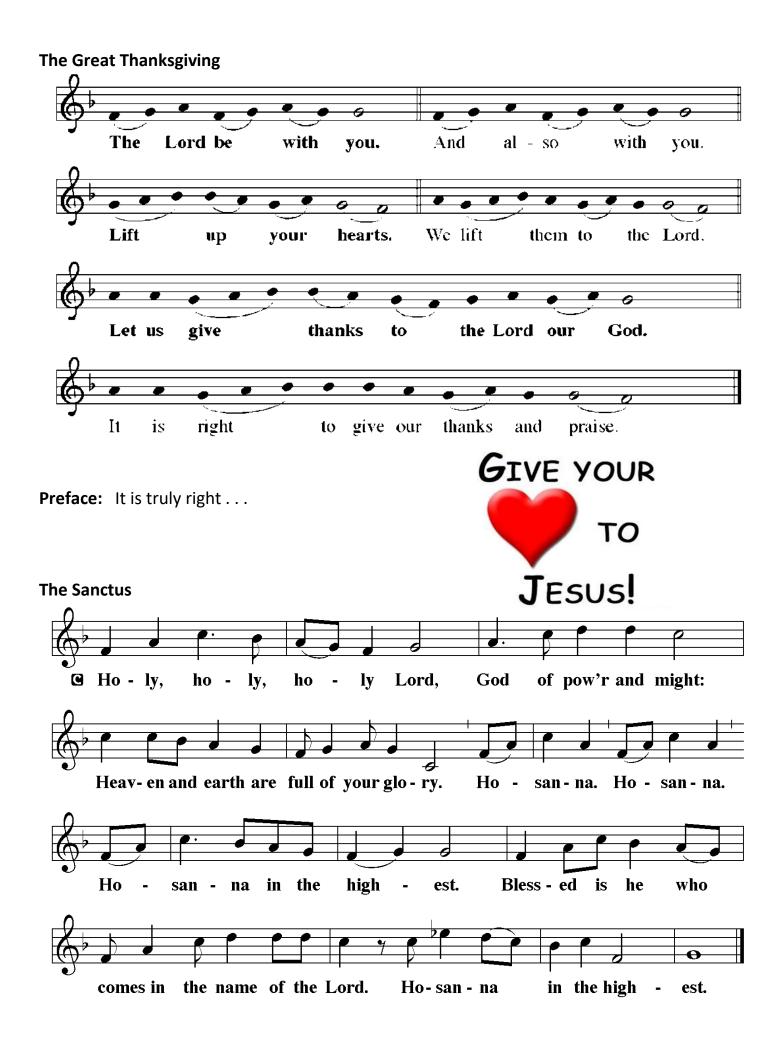
The Offering

Anthem



Offertory Prayer

- A. Blessed are you, Holy One,
- C. 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. Amen.



Eucharistic Prayer

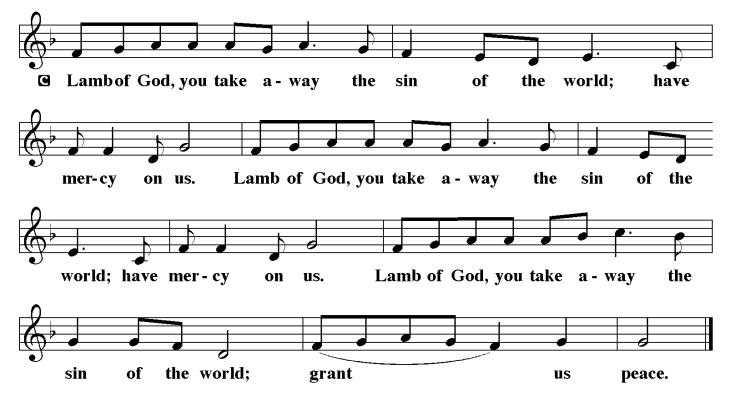


Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

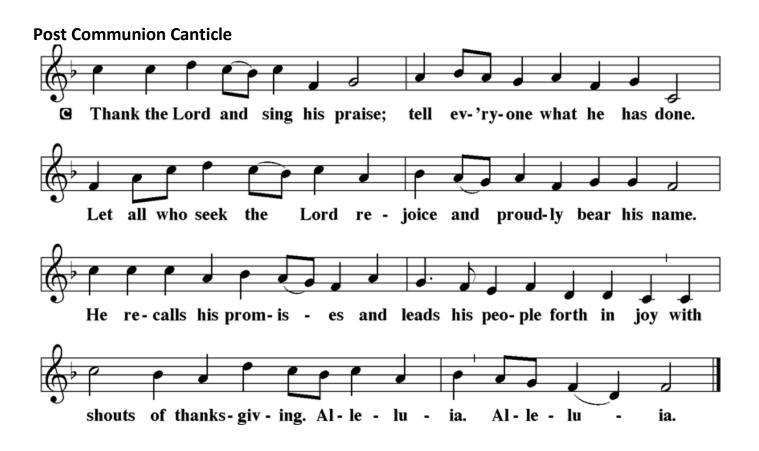
- **P.** At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see. Everyone is invited, no exceptions.
- C. Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God



Communion Hymns

Shall We Gather at the River	ELW 423
Let Us Break Bread Together	ELW 471



Post Communion Prayer

- **A.** Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.
- C. 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.

Sending Hymn	God, Whose Almighty Word	ELW 673
	Gou, whose Annighty word	

Dismissal

- A. Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
- C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Servers for Sunday, January 7th:

Assisting Minister	Shannon Thomsen
Reader	Sylvia Lambert
Altar Guild	Sylvia Lambert
Greeters/Counters .	Steve Brantley/Linda Hash



Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway. Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.



Flowers this week are given by Sylvia Lambert in honor of her family.

Honor a loved one by making a donation for the candles in the sanctuary for the month or the flowers that beautify the church each Sunday. Sign-up sheet is on the board in the hallway.

After Worship Fellowship this week provided by Rita Clark and Sylvia Lambert.