

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021**

**BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us come together to worship the Messiah, our God and King!

**We come to worship the Savior of the world. We come to worship the Messiah.**

Jesus promised to be wherever two or more are gathered.

Christ is with us now. God calls us to turn back his love and mercy for us.

**We turn to God, our merciful Redeemer.**

**We are thankful for Jesus, Emmanuel, who comes to change the world.**

Let us worship together as we meet with Jesus in this place. **Amen.**

**\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water,

the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are washed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world.

We know that through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom through the sea. Long ago, at the banks of the Jordan River Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

**Your Word and your refreshing water reminds us that we are yours.**

**You promise to remember us in your kingdom and we become workers for your kingdom. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains all life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.**

Shower us with your Holy Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. We give you all glory, honor, and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, † now and forever. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.... **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.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the 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. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

### Psalm: Psalm 29

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The 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!"

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

### Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He 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." <sup>3</sup>Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup>Paul 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." <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—<sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

### 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.*

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And 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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He 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. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

<sup>10</sup>And 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. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God, **You bless us with all that we have. You have blessed our lives forever with the love of your Son and your gift of grace. Empower us to change the lives of others with your Good News. Bless our congregation, this community, and all the offerings we give back to you for your holy work, through Jesus Christ, our Messiah. Amen.**

## \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*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.*

*Leader:* For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

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

*Leader:* 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. **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 (*especially*), that God shower compassion, let us pray.  
**Have mercy, O God.**

*Leader:* For the congregation gathered here, for students returning to school, for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

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

## SENDING PRAYER

Dear God, in this time of holy worship you have refreshed us. Guide our lives with your holy Word. Bring joy back into our journey with you. Send us forth now as witnesses of the Good News of your birth, that we also may be light for the world, in the name of Jesus, the Messiah. **Amen.**

## \*BLESSING

May God bless you and keep you. Know that God is always by your side. May Jesus' love guide and inspire you in all you do. May the Holy Spirit shine in you and bring others closer to God's love and ✠ give you joy! **Amen**



## *Spirit, Guide Us*

**EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

**Sunday, January 17, 2021**

*right after 10:15AM worship in the  
 Fellowship Hall*

Join Pastor Althea for a brainstorming retreat as we envision what our church can do in the near future to enhance our ministry.

**Come open! Come with ideas!**

**Members, friends, family, teens, and young adults are all welcome!**

*Depending on the number of people who attend,  
 we may change the location of the meeting for appropriate social distancing.*

We will be dreaming about all we can do for God this year and in our years ahead. We will also be setting goals which we will revisit at other times this year.

**We will Zoom live with anyone who wishes to attend from home.**

**Details to follow.**

**Let Pastor Althea or Diana know if you would like to attend this way—  
 RSVP for Zoom.**