



Jesus  
was baptized  
by John in  
the Jordan

MARK 1:9

## Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 2021

### FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## TODAY'S SERVICE

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## TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS ARE:

Greeters/Ushers:.....	Phil Newlander
Lector: .....	Arlene Sinclair

## PARISH CALENDAR –January 8 - 14

Tuesday	11:00 am	Finance Meeting
	12 noon	AA Meeting
Wednesday	1:00 pm	Blood Drive
Thursday	10:00 am	AA Meeting
	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
Friday	12 noon	AA Meeting
Sunday	9:30 am	Holy Communion

**Attendance for January 3, 2020:** Indoor Total: 8, Facebook 6

## PRAYER LIST

Eddie, Cheryl, Carol and Craig, Bruce, Denis, Megan, Gertrude, George, Mike, Jennifer, Sue, Tina, Alex, Donna, Andrea, Ginger, Karen, Janet, Jacquie, Rachel, Jenn, Andrea, Ginger, R.C., Richard, Forrest, Roy, Jeanine, Leslie, Cory, Shirley, Deb, Kathy, Tom, Glen, Margery and Members of the armed services, the congregation of Salem – St. Paul of Kresgeville.

**In Hospital:** Bruce Kulp

**WELCOME VISITORS!** We are glad to have you join us in the worship of Our Lord. **Please sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary.**

**Holy Communion** is open to all baptized believers who trust that the Lord is present for them in His supper. **Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices to fully enter into this time of worship.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A Word of Thanks.** I wish to thank everyone for your generous Christmas gift! It has certainly been a challenging year for everyone, and Your expressions of support and encouragement have helped me immensely through it all. I want to express how grateful I am for how well everyone has responded to the trials we have faced . Thanks to your commitments and support for the church we have been able to not only continue our ministry, but to expand our capabilities to reach out and stay connected to our congregation, as well as to many more of our neighbors here in the Poconos and around the country. While I'm sure we may still face new and unexpected situations in the months ahead, we can trust that God is with us, and together we will emerge stronger and more resilient than ever. We look forward to the day we can ALL gather safely and celebrate!

**Bulletin Sponsors:** We are now printing our bulletin covers in-house. You may sponsor each week's bulletin for only \$10. This covers the cost of color copies. We currently need sponsors for January 10, 17, 24 and 31. A new sign-up sheet for 2021 is on the back table if you haven't signed up yet.

**Flower Sponsors:** Because we no longer have a local florist to arrange and deliver flowers, we are looking to provide altar flowers in one of two ways. When you sign up for a week, you can either donate \$20 towards silk flowers to be used in arrangements or indicate that you plan on bringing flowers for the altar that week, which you may then take home with you after the service. Vases are available at church. A sign-up sheet is on the back table...please indicate which type of donation you are offering. Please note that we are also looking for a volunteer or two to help with purchasing and arranging the silk flower arrangements. If you can help, **please contact the office (570-646-0309 or email [faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org](mailto:faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org) ) or speak to Pastor Debby. Available Dates: January 10, 17, and 31.**

### Stewardship Snippets

*"[Paul] 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.' "*— **Acts 19:2**

As we celebrate the baptism of Jesus and recall our own initiation into God's family, we can be confident that God works within us, giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit, and equipping us to be faithful disciples who are well in body, mind, and spirit.

## **Call to Worship**

We are the people of God, marked by water,  
**Claimed by the Spirit, precious in God's sight.**

We are the body of Christ, gathered at the table,  
**Fed by the Bread of Life, filled with the cup of joy,**  
Strengthened for the new year.

We are the community of faith,  
**Following God's star, bringing our gifts,**  
Seeing the Holy in the ordinary,  
**Being made new as we travel new roads.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

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 Reading: Psalm 29

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

<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 asking for evermore.**

<sup>11</sup>O Lord, give strength to your people;  
give them, O Lord, the blessings 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.*

<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."

**Hymn of the Day**  
**Crashing Waters at Creation - ELW 455**

1      Crashing waters at creation,  
ordered by the Spirit's breath,  
first to witness day's beginning  
from the brightness of night's death:

2      Parting water stood and trembled  
as the captives passed on through,  
washing off the chains of bondage—  
channel to a life made new.

3      Cleansing water once at Jordan  
closed around the one foretold,  
opened to reveal the glory  
ever new and ever old.

4      Living water, never ending,  
quench the thirst and flood the soul.  
Wellspring, source of life eternal,  
drench our dryness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

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## **Sending - We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus - ELW 451**

- 1 We are baptized in Christ Jesus,  
we are baptized in his death;  
that as Christ is raised victorious,  
we might live a brand new life.  
And if we have been united  
in a dreadful death like his,  
we will all be reunited, for he lives.
  
- 2 In the water and the witness,  
in the breaking of the bread,  
in the waiting arms of Jesus  
who is risen from the dead,  
God has made a new beginning  
from the ashes of our past;  
in the losing and the winning we hold fast.
  
- 3 Glory be to God the Father,  
glory be to Christ the Son,  
glory to the Holy Spirit,  
ever three and ever one;  
as it was in the beginning,  
glory now resounds again  
in a song that has no ending. Amen

Text: John C. Ylvisaker  
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## CORRESPONDENCE

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## GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 10, 2021

### BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

#### A Hitch in the Story

Was it wildfire nerve? Unchecked audacity? Holy purpose? The hammering of parents' expectations? Maybe the privilege of being kin to Jesus? Or was it eccentricity as peculiar as his diet and wardrobe? What desire drove John to the wilderness, into the water of the Jordan? What ignited his fiery proclamation of repentance and forgiveness? What current pulled crowds from city and country into the water?

One can say, rightly, that it was ordained by God, compelled by the Holy Spirit, predicted by an angel. Yet there is a hitch in the story. Four easily missed but utterly important words gum up the works of any timid or tidy explanations: "I am not worthy" (Mark 1:7).

Something in John's four words opens the baptismal story to torrents of wonder, floods of hope, drenching relief and recovery.

For some years the two friends had been together through what we often call the thick and the thin. They knew this and that, bits and pieces, the here and there of one another's lives. And not only the trivial. They probed each other's shadowed corridors and crumbling edges. Still, there were secrets, withholdings. One day, for reasons wrapped with nothing but the ragged swaddling of unaccountable grace, one said to the other, "It has been such a long, lonely journey, carrying a suitcase filled with secrets, the shames and deceptions I've folded and packed." Then he began to tell. To confess. A repenting, a turning. His friend's eyes filled with tears that watered his cheeks and dripped into his lap. All he could say through the flood was, "I love you all the more."

Born literally of grace, breaking the dam of John's four words, "I am not worthy," is one stronger word, the word of the more powerful one: *forgiveness*. To John and to us who say, "I am not worthy," Jesus answers, "Yes, yes, yes, you are."

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