

First Lutheran Church – ELCA

Worship Bulletin – Baptism of Our Lord

January 9, 2022

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

OPENING SONG – “Here I Am to Worship” (Tim Hughes)

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Open my eyes let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You’re my God

You’re altogether, lovely
Altogether, worthy
Altogether, wonderful to me

King of all days,
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven, above
Humbly You came, to the earth You created
All for love’s sake became poor

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You’re my God

You’re altogether, lovely
Altogether, worthy
Altogether, wonderful to me

I’ll never know, how much it cost
To see my sin, upon that cross

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You’re my God

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You’re my God

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm) 29 (Joan Stott; The Timeless Psalms)

L: Come, let us gather to worship God singing: “Glory!”

P: The voice of God is heard throughout all creation!

L: Come, let us gather to worship God saying: “Glory!”

P: The voice of God is heard in the raging storms, the shaking earth and wild winds, bringing fear and anxiety.

L: Come, let us gather to worship god praying: Glory!”

P: The voice of God is also heard in the stillness and peace of God’s loving and welcoming presence amongst us; Come, let us worship and glorify our Glorious God.

SONG – “Glorify thy Name” (W&P 42; BOB 66)

Father, we love you, we worship and adore you,
glorify thy name in all the earth;
glorify thy name, glorify thy name
glorify thy name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love you, we worship and adore you,
glorify thy name in all the earth;
glorify thy name, glorify thy name
glorify thy name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love you, we worship and adore you,
glorify thy name in all the earth;
glorify thy name, glorify thy name
glorify thy name in all the earth.

SCRIPTURE READING (no liturgy/responses) Isaiah 43: 1-7

Near the end of Israel’s exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

https://sermons4kids.com/one_and_only.htm

CHILDREN’S SONG (related to message):

https://sermons4kids.com/storage/973/to_be_like_jesus.pdf

GOSPEL READING (no liturgy/responses): Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

MESSAGE

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father in Heaven. Amen.

Baptisms are awesome moments. Baptismal services are very important to Christ's church, and an important part of a Pastor's call. It is one of the great things that I look forward to in my ministry. In the past four years of my training at Wartburg seminary and at Grace Lutheran, I have been blessed to perform a few baptisms.

I remember "doing" my first baptism in 2018, soon after beginning school and getting the ok from Bishop John Anderson. What an awesome and positive memory. It was the baby of one of my brother's step children. My family, like at a family reunion, were gathered in the sanctuary and I performed my first pastoral function.

The second baptism was one Sunday morning a few weeks after one of the members of Grace had passed away. Merle Baumgard passed on July 1, 2021. His children wanted their children baptized in the church that Merle had been a part of, so I performed my 2nd and 3rd baptisms. The two families came from opposite ends of the United States to Grace Lutheran. A powerful baptism that I was able to be a part of.

Then there was the baptism a couple months ago of a couple of the foster children that my brother takes care of. The oldest is 17 and had been talking to me about baptism over the last year. She decided that she wanted to be baptized and she wanted me to perform the action. It was one of the rare times in a Lutheran church that the baptized was of an older age. It's not impossible, but a rarity. This baptism will always stand out to me because I had to find a way to pour water on the forehead of a person who I wasn't holding. And this time, instead of asking those who were sponsoring the child, I was able to ask the baptized person themselves.

Yet it was in the preparing of this last baptism that I really felt the gravity of what it meant to be baptized in the Triune God; in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For some people, baptism is "just joining the Jesus club." Everyone knows what it means to join a club such as Girl or Boy Scouts, the Chamber, the Kiwanis, or the Elks. We have all joined clubs and every club has its rules and regulations. Some feel that baptism is joining the 'Jesus club' and now have to follow the "Jesus rules" as suggested by the Bible.

For others, baptism is like "hell insurance." I'll never forget a story of one of my professors about a baptism they had performed early in their call. Professor Thomas told us about Grandma Prudence, who insisting that her grand-daughter was baptized because the family was going on a trip. Grandma didn't want to have that baby be in a car accident, get killed and go to hell. To her, baptism is like hell insurance. Thomas talked of how they didn't have the baptismal certificate completed, so Grandma Prudence insisted that they do so before they left on that Sunday. That way, they would have a "hell insurance card" before the car trip to Montana that guaranteed the baby was baptized.

For others, infant baptism is so unimportant that they refuse to baptize infants. I remember my first youth director position in Texas and talking with other youth workers. Interdenominational churches and Baptist churches there wanted to wait until a child is older to be baptized. They want to let the child grow up until

they are old enough to “make a decision for themselves.” Like they think that you have to accept Jesus in order to be loved and saved by Him.

Today, on this “Baptism of Jesus” Sunday, I want to focus on the baptism of Jesus by John, in the river Jordan. I believe that Christ’s baptism as a means of understanding our own baptism. Jesus came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. John felt unworthy to baptize Jesus, but Jesus insisted. Jesus was immersed into the Jordan River. As he came up out of the river, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased. He is my chosen one, in whom my soul delights. Listen to him.” Immediately, the Spirit of God that had come onto Jesus at his baptism, then led Jesus out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

So how does this correlate and bring us understanding in our own baptism? First, in his baptism, Jesus was declared to be the Son of God, the only Son of God. “This is my beloved Son.” The Bible teaches that Jesus was the only begotten Son, the only genetic Son of God. All other people are adopted children of God. We are all adopted children of God. In our baptism, you and I become the *adopted* sons and daughters of God. Our relationship with God is transformed in baptism. Through our baptism, there is a new familiarity, closeness and intimacy with God. It is God who takes the initiative, but the relationship is totally transformed.

God looks down at you and me and says, “This is my beloved son, this is my beloved daughter in whom my soul delights.” No matter what our age may be, this is God’s fundamental attitude towards us. God delights in us, as a parent delights in a child. Secondly, when Jesus was baptized, *the Spirit of God* came down upon him. This Spirit was the very presence of God. This was the same Spirit that was present in creation, when God created the world. In the book of Genesis, it says, “The Spirit of God was hovering above the waters.” The Spirit was brooding above the waters, ready to create life in those waters. Then, that same creative Spirit that was present in the creation story came on the prophets. The prophets were filled with God’s Spirit and they spoke with boldness and authority. Then, that same Spirit came on King David and King David knew that God’s Spirit was in him to help him to rule wisely. That same Spirit came on Jesus at his baptism, this powerful Spirit of God. All of these people were all filled with the Spirit.

As a consequence of having the Spirit of God inside of him, Jesus had unusual power. By the power and Spirit of God in him, he turned water into wine, controlled the wind and waves of the sea, cured the lepers, healed the deaf and blind. When Jesus came to earth, he was filled with a spirit of gentleness in all his relationships. Jesus had the spirit of gentleness upon him because the Spirit of God was within him.

In our baptism, the same Spirit lives in our hearts and in the hearts of our community. We too are filled with the same Spirit found in the creation, the same Spirit found in the prophets, the same Spirit found in King David; the same Spirit who filled Jesus is the same Spirit who fills us.

And then, several things begin to happen to us. This same Holy Spirit gives you and me power and gentleness to meet our daily challenges. When the Spirit is inside of you and the people around you, there is power, spiritual power and spiritual gentleness, and that is power indeed.

There is a third factor that happens in baptism. The voice of God identified Jesus as being the Suffering Servant. The quotation, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased,” is a quotation from Isaiah 42. Isaiah 42 is a chapter about the Suffering Servant. Jesus is identified as being the Suffering Servant of Isaiah.

In Isaiah, the Suffering Servant is the one who carries the sins of the whole world on his back. In the New Testament, the Suffering Servant carries the whole world of sin on the cross.

You and I were baptized in order to get rid of our sins. That was not true of Jesus. Jesus had no sins. According to the Bible, Jesus was baptized not to get rid of his sins, but in order to carry our sins on the cross. So it is with our baptism: when we are baptized, it is guaranteed that Christ will carry all of our sins on the cross. I don’t have to carry my past sins with me, my failures, my imperfections, nor my guilt. All the sins that I have done wrong and all the things that I haven’t done right are placed *on his back, on his cross*.

So, on this Baptism Sunday, we see how Christ’s baptism helps us to understand that we are beloved sons and daughters of the Creator, we are given God’s Spirit and power in this world of chaos, and we are given the suffering servant, Jesus Christ, who carries all our sins on his back.

For some people, baptism is not that important. Baptism is just sprinkling of water on a baby's head. Baptism is like hell insurance and protects you from the fiery wrath of God. Baptism is joining the Jesus Club with all its rules and regulations. But for me, baptism means so much more. As I am being sent out to the world with the great training that I have received from all of you at First and all of those at Grace, the support for my studies, and the prayers for me and my family, I look forward to continuing to baptize more and more brothers and sisters into the community of God. And that is something we can all celebrate! Amen.

SONG – “Spirit Song” (TFF 105; W&P 130)

Oh, let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love,
let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
Oh, let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove
will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Oh, come and sing this song with gladness as your hearts are filled with joy,
lift your hand in sweet surrender to his name.
Oh, give him all your tears and sadness, give him all your years of pain,
and you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

You are our God. We worship you.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

OFFERING/SPECIAL MUSIC – “Knowing You” (Graham Kendrick; BOB 138)

All I once held dear, built my life upon,
all this world rivers and wars to own.
All I once thought gain I have counted loss,

spent and worthless now compared to this.

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing you,
there is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best,
You're my joy, my righteousness,
and I love You, Lord.

Now my heart's desire is to know You more,
to be found in You, and known as Yours.
To possess by faith what I could not earn,
all surpassing gift of righteousness.

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing you,
there is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best,
You're my joy, my righteousness,
and I love You, Lord.

Oh, to know the pow'r of Your risen life
and to know You in Your sufferings.
To become like You in Your death, my Lord,
so with You to live and never die.

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing you,
there is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best,
You're my joy, my righteousness,
and I love You, Lord.

OFFERING PRAYER (Epiphany, TFF)

God of all creation, **all you have made is good and your love endures forever. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE OF SENDING FOR JON WENDT

L: We continue with our service of sending for Jon. Please stand:

From Matthew 28: ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Lord, we pray for Jon Wendt in this time of transition. Give him and his family discernment about where they are called to next. Order their path. Be with them while Barb and Matt finish this school year here and they manage those realities. Lord in your mercy... Hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we thank you for walking with Jon throughout this seminary process. Thank you for mentors from his candidacy committee, the community, his internship committee and the seminary who prepared him for ordination. Lord in your mercy... Hear our prayer.

Lord, we thank you for working through Jon in many ways here. Thank you for blessing our youth in KFC, Sunday School, Encounter, Confirmation, Youth Group and on trips and in fellowship events. Help us to continue this work of blessing our youth. Lord in your mercy... Hear our prayer.

God, be with Jon as he plans his ordination service and provide for him in that work. Lord in your mercy.. Hear our prayer.

Be with the congregations who are considering calling Jon. Give them wisdom and discernment. Be with those congregation who will not end up receiving a candidate this month and provide for them. Lord in your mercy... Hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we pray for First and Grace in this time of transition. Help us to build on what has already been established through our existing partnership so we can better serve You, each other and the community around us. Lord in your mercy... Hear our prayer.

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy. Amen.

(Jon wants to say anything)

L: The youth have been working on some projects along with the help of Judy Selberg which will be gifted to Jon on Wednesday. We encourage people to stay for cake and offer cards and well wishes, too. Jon should have an ordination soon and we will provide people with information in that regards.

Receive the blessing: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need (*especially*)

Members: Winora Hallstrom, Todd Poppema, Dave Livingston, Linda Towne, Al Luing, Janice Berger, Sandy Rogers, Todd Hallstrom, Charlene Wachter, Marilyn Frisch, Julie & Denny Christensen, Dianne Sanderson, Betty Nelson; **Members in Nursing Homes:** Lois Graf, Albert Mattisen, Bobbie Elvin, Sandra Marsh; **Members in Care Facilities:** Fred Wietzema, Joan Doeden, Jean Bender; **Family Members &**

Friends: Joe Christensen (son of Nora Leinen & Gene Christensen), Arlene (Fern Burmeister's sister), Butch Zeiner (Valerie Veen's brother), Maverick Thalberg (Fern Burmeister's great-grandson), Josh Hansen (Mary Ingenthron's son), Tom Morgan (Sandy Randall's dad), Brad Martens (Valerie Veen's son); **Our service men and women and Love INC.** God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace (*especially*). Comfort us in grief and release us from fear. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we remember those in our community we have lost. We especially remember Gunnie Mahlberg, Nick Harberts, Don Grant and Judy Luing. Surround their families with care. We thank you for their lives well lived. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

LORD'S 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.

BLESSING (Nathan Nettleton; laughingbird.net)

Go now, confident that you are God's precious and pleasing children. Trust in God and do not fear. Accept the Word of God and point others to the one who baptizes with Spirit and fire.

And may God be your protection and your strength; May Christ baptize you with his Holy Spirit. And may the Spirit be with you to empower you and give you peace.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, *In the name of Christ. Amen.*

SENDING SONG – “Go in Peace and Serve the Lord” (W&P 46; 2x)

Go in peace and serve the Lord.
God is calling you today.
Go and tell gospel news ev'rywhere.
God in peace and serve the Lord.
God is calling you today
to bring truth and love to ev'ry nation.

Go in peace and serve the Lord.
God is calling you today.
Go and tell gospel news ev'rywhere.
God in peace and serve the Lord.
God is calling you today
to bring truth and love to ev'ry nation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Encounter” the ecumenical youth group for grades 7 and up is on Sunday nights. We meet at Hy-Vee where attendees are able to snack on food and have a soda or Starbuck beverage. Friends are invited to come to this gathering of fun. Activities begin at 6:30 pm and end around 8:00 pm.

FELC SCHEDULE FOR January 10-16, 2022

Monday - 10	9:00AM	BULLETIN DEADLINE
	6:00PM	Worship & Music Team Meeting
	7:00PM	Day Care Association Meeting
Tuesday - 11	7:00AM	Early Risers Bible Study
	7:00PM	Day Care Association Meeting
Wednesday - 12	3:30PM	KFC
	5:15PM	Meal
	6:00PM	Worship
	6:30PM	Confirmation
	6:30PM	Sanctuary Choir
	6:30PM	Card Ministry
	7:30PM	Youth Group
Thursday – 13		
Friday - 14		Pastor’s Sabbath Day
Saturday – 15		
Sunday - 16	9:00AM	Worship – 2 nd Sunday in Epiphany
	10:00AM	Sunday School
	6:00PM	“Encounter” @ Hy-Vee

ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022 at 10:00 am. The meeting will be held in a Hybrid method this year. Those who wish to be in person can gather in the Sanctuary and those who feel more comfortable in zooming we will email out the zoom code closer to the time of the meeting. A letter will be sent out shortly explaining the meeting.

Worship Time Change will take effect on February 6. Our new worship time will be 9:30 am and Grace Lutheran will have services at 8:00 am.