

WELCOMING WORD *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.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;

C: the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

L: The voice of the Lord,

C: bursts forth in lightning flashes.

L: O Lord, give strength to your people;

C: give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

OPENING HYMN #36 On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry (vs. 1, 2, 4)

On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
And make us rise to fall no more:
Oh let your face upon us shine,
And fill the world with love divine.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: God of goodness and lovingkindness,

C: we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P: Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

INVOCATION

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

P: Holy God,

C: **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 LESSON: Genesis 1:1-5 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.

SECOND LESSON: Acts 19:1-7 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.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11 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 locust 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."

MESSAGE Intern Tamara Siburg

HYMN #647 *When Jesus Came to Jordan*

When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon but as the Sinless One.
He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.

He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation to die upon the cross.
So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man,
The hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.

Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make;
This very day invade us, and ev'ry bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction, the gifts we covet most;
To share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us as we worship, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Guided by Christ made known, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Revealing God, guided by your Spirit, lead the church and it's leaders throughout the world to always proclaim your forgiveness of sins. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You formed heaven and earth. Your goodness is revealed through creation. Lead us to be faithful stewards of all you made, the wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You continue to sustain all people, all the nations of the world and their leaders, the laborers busy both day and night, and peacemakers amid strife. Inspire all people to use their strength wisely. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You bring consolation to those who weep. Sustain medical care providers. Embrace the imprisoned and those who show them mercy. Provide companionship to the lonely. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith (*especially*). With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

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. 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.

BENEDICTION *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again*

CLOSING HYMN: #651 Shine, Jesus, Shine

REFRAIN Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with love and mercy;
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me: **REFRAIN**

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me. **REFRAIN**

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEL HANSON on her graduation from UW LaCrosse. She majored in Middle Childhood to early adolescence education - minors in Math and Science education.

OUR SYMPATHIES AND PRAYERS ARE WITH

- ✠ **Kate Hook & family.** Kate's father, Glenn Thronson, passed away December 31
- ✠ **Deloris Witte,** who passed away January 4

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Devon Schlegel (father of Dawn Haag)
Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag)
Allen Olson (father of Ingrid Frank)
Delores Bryant
Brock Howe
Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)
Jeannie U'Ren
Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)
Irene Bruflat
Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)
Harlan Oimoen
Grace Aavang

Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin)
Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)
Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)
Makenzee Smith
Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)
Mary Krantz
Ruth Ann Nemet
Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)
Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)
Bill Steinhauer
Peter Toniazzo
Shirley Thompson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUCKY BOOKS - ONLINE ONLY Bucky Books can be ordered online, through our link below till January 15th. Please share the link with family and friends. Books are shipped directly to your home. Books sell for \$35 each. Profits help our youth with future summer programming. Thank you for continued support.



*** ORDER ONLINE AT: <https://www.buckybook.com/evangelical-lutheran-church-mt-horeb>

SUNDAY SCHOOL on ZOOM We will resume our online time on January 10th at 9:00 AM. Youth, ages 3 yrs - 8th grade, may join us for a time to connect on Zoom each week at 9 am for the story and games. Lessons are also emailed to families, to work together as a family.

ELC 'COFFEE TIME' on ZOOM Join us on Wednesdays at 10 AM each week to catch up with our church family. Time to connect and see each other! Zoom link is emailed each week. If you need the link, contact Pastor John, Tamara or Brenda.

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE 7th & 8th graders meet on Zoom each Wednesday, at 7 pm for class time. They are currently studying the Ten Commandments.

FUSE NIGHT on ZOOM Youth, who are 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group on ZOOM, **Tuesdays, January 12 & 26th at 7 pm**. FUSE nights build relationships, challenge each other in exciting games (Jackbox, Among Us), time to hang out, and learn about what it means to share our faith with everyone. Invite your friends to join us. Link is emailed each week to our youth.



SUGAR CREEK "BACK IN THE SADDLE" - Online Registrations are now available for Sugar Creek Bible Camp Summer programs. They have a variety of programs (new & favorites) listed on their website, <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org>, for youth and families. Come and see in 2021!

HEY ELC CLOTHES CLOSET VOLUNTEERS, Thanks so much for your help at the Clothes Closet the last 3 weeks!!! We need a bit more help the last two weeks of the month. I have added some volunteer slots, maybe you could help or help one more time? Here is the link, check it out!! And, thank you for considering. It is really a great ministry. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B44ACA82BA3F49-community>



DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 10, 2021

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36, Prayer for Deliverance from Persecution

Tuesday, Acts 22:2-16, Paul's Conversion

Wednesday, Isaiah 41:14-20, Israel Assured of God's Help

Thursday, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, The Inescapable God

Friday, Acts 13:16-25, Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia

Saturday, 1 Samuel 2:21-25, Prophecy against Eli's Household

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: "*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.*" Mark 1:10. The gospel of Mark begins with John baptizing. Jesus came to him to also be baptized and God's voice is heard claiming Jesus as God's Son.

- What do you remember from your own baptism or from witnessing others baptisms?
- Through baptism God publicly claims you as a child of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. How do you continue to celebrate God's claiming you as a child of God?
- With the Holy Spirit coming through the torn heavens on the loose in the world, where do you see the Holy Spirit in the world around you?

PRAY: 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.

BLESS: May you experience the grace of Jesus' presence in our world. Amen!