

SUNDAY- JANUARY 7, 2024 -9:00 AM



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB

*A family in faith, reaching out to share in God's love
with all people.*

MINISTERS
PASTOR
INTERIM

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
JOHN TWITON
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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 7, 2024 | Baptism of Our Lord | 9:00 AM
(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / C = Congregation)

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

You are encouraged to use the time during the Prelude for quiet reflection and preparing for worship.

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.

OPENING HYMN: #302 As with Gladness Men of Old (vs. 1,2,3)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P - Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C - Amen.

P - Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C - Amen.

P - Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

C - we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P - God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C - Amen

GREETING

L: 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.

+ KYRIE pg. 138

+ HYMN OF PRAISE pg. 140 *"This is the feast..."*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: 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.

Congregational Songs – *Come, Now is the Time to Worship
In the Bleak Midwinter*

FIRST READING: 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 READING: 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.

+ACCLAMATION (pg. 142)

(sing) Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

L: The Gospel according to Mark, Chapter 1

C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

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 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."

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: **Praise to you, O Christ**

CHOIR ANTHEM – *"Like a Dove"*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

+HYMN #304 *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*

+NICENE CREED pg. 104

THE PRAYERS pg. 143

(As the leader concludes each petition with the words:

"Lord in your mercy..." The people respond: Hear our prayer.")

OFFERING SONG *Wade in the Water*

OFFERTORY - **#182** *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

MEAL

+ Offering Prayer: Blessed are you, Holy One, 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.

+The Great Thanksgiving pg. 144

+Words of Institution

+ The Lord's Prayer pg. 145 (right hand column)

Communion Hymn: #298 *The Bells of Christmas*

Prayer after Communion: 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. Amen.

SENDING

COMMUNITY WORD

+BLESSING

L: 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.

C: Amen.

+HYMN #250 *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

+DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE WELCOME ALL TO ELC!

Everyone. Without exception. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, faith traditions, physical or mental abilities, financial resources, family status, or personal struggles. We are committed to being an anti-racist community. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will work to extend God's grace, love, justice, and dignity. You belong here. Your story and your life are valuable. In Christ's love, we welcome you.

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 7, 2024

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

Tuesday, Acts 22:2-16, Paul Tells of His Conversion

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

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

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

Saturday, 1 Samuel 2:21-25, Prophecy Against Ele

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

“And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”” -- Mark 1:11

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.

- God creates order from chaos. How can we participate with God in doing the same? (Gen 1:1-5)
- Baptismal candidates declare “I renounce them!” to the powers of evil. What evil(s) do you renounce? (Mark 1:9-11)
- Jesus' baptism was the beginning of his ministry; how was your baptism the beginning of yours? (Mark 1:10-11)

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: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, bless you and remain with you always. Amen.