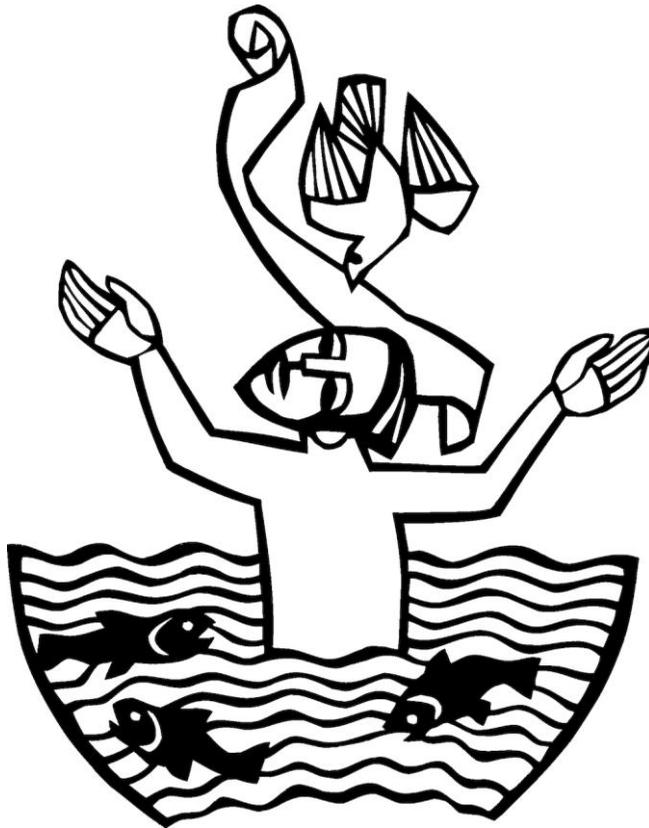


BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

First Lutheran Church, Lynn, MA

January 10, 2021



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.**

Welcome to worship!

Yes, *this is worship!* It is not the way any of us *want* it to be, but God is alive and present in this virtual gathering. God's work will still speak to us through the Holy Spirit, and we are still the Body of Christ, joined together in a fellowship of love, even if it is not in person.

Create a sacred space in your home.

Light a candle. Pour yourself a warm beverage. Welcome the presence of God into your dwelling. Set aside this time for worship as if you were in church. Put away the cell phone (unless you are watching on your cell phone!) Adopt a posture of prayer that works for you.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We begin our worship by freeing ourselves from the baggage we have carried around this week.

It is liberating to admit that we are not perfect people, and to know that we have a God who loves and accepts us unconditionally.

Chorale Prelude on CHRISTE SANCTORUM
Daryl Hollinger

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
you search us and know us.
You are acquainted with all our ways.
We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.
We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love.
We distrust those who are not like us.
We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.
Forgive us, gracious God,
for all we have done and left undone.
Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them;
receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

The minister announces God's forgiveness, to which the assembly responds:
Amen.

Praise and Thanksgiving



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing be to God our
2 Not our own ho - li - ness, nor that we have
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come in vis - i -
4 Praise to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



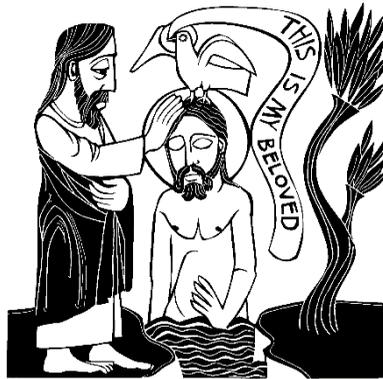
mak - er, source of all bless - ing, prod - i - gal cre -
striv - en brings us the peace which you, O Christ, have
ta - tion; you are the truth, our hope, and our sal -
Spir - it: one Lord, one faith, one source of ev - 'ry



a - tor. Bap - tized and made your own, now we come be -
giv - en. Bap - tized and set a - part, strength - en us, O
va - tion. Bap - tize with joy and pow'r, give, O Dove de -
mer - it. Here now re - new your church through this sym - bol



fore you, and we a - dore you.
Sav - ior, with grace and fa - vor.
scend - ing, life nev - er end - ing.
giv - en; grant peace from heav - en.



God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching, and song

FIRST READING

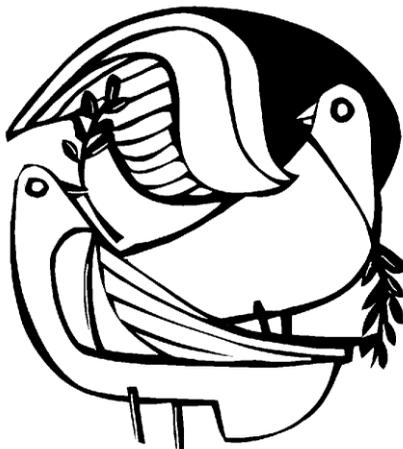
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's past promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 29

The psalms were the original prayer book of God's people and capture the full gamut of human emotion.

The cantors sing the refrain, which is repeated by the assembly. The cantors sing the verses.

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.



The Lord will bless his peo-ple with peace. The



Lord will bless his peo - ple with peace.

1. Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly powers, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; bow down before the Lord, majestic in holiness.
2. The voice of the Lord upon the waters, the Lord on the immensity of the waters; The voice of the Lord full of power; the voice of the Lord full of splendor.
3. The God of glory thunders; in his temple the all cry, "Glory!"
The Lord sat enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits as king, sits as king forever.

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We stand to welcome Christ, the living word of God, in the gospel reading.



Verse: Father, we praise you as Lord,
all of the earth gives you worship, for your majesty
fills the heavens, fills the earth.

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.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

*We stand to proclaim
the word of God in
song.*

Baptized and Set Free



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!



RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

*On this special day, as
at the Easter Vigil, we
publicly re-affirm the
covenant God made
with us in baptism and
pledge to live as
faithful Christians in
the world.*

Dear friends, we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life. On this holy day, let us renew the promises we made in baptism. May God help us to remain faithful to the Holy Spirit we have received.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Do you promise to support and pray for one another
in your life in Christ?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Let us pray.

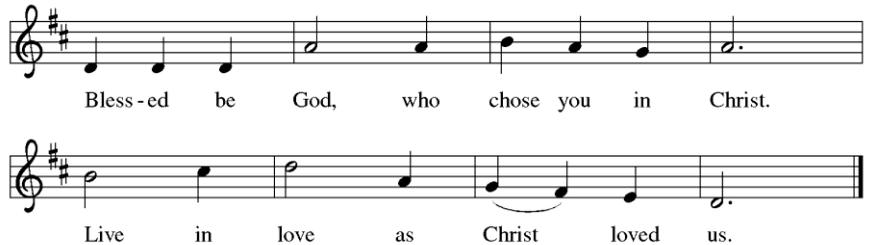
Blessed are you, holy God...

...one God, now and forever.

Amen.

In remembrance and celebration of the gift of baptism, you are invited to sprinkle water on yourself or on each other, or dip your hand in bowl of water and make the sign of the cross, marked upon you in baptism.

We sing the refrain together.

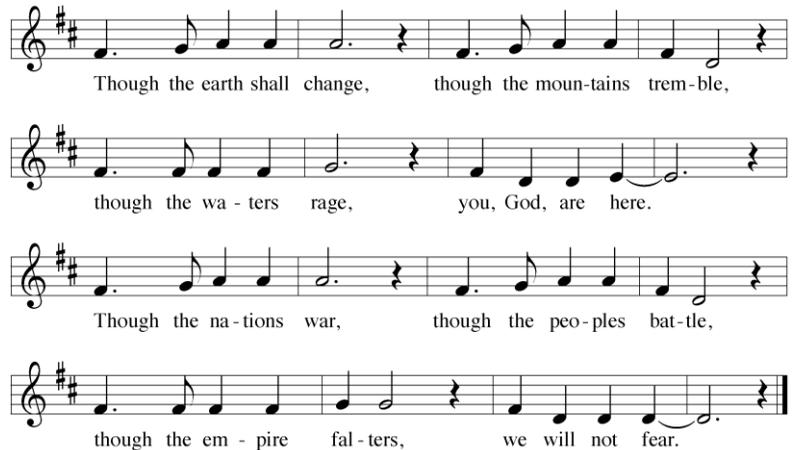


**PRAYERS OF
INTERCESSION
and THE LORD'S
PRAYER**

After each petition:

O God, give strength to your people.
Give us your blessings of peace.

As we pray, we sing this refrain:



Though the earth shall change, though the mountains tremble,
though the waters rage, you, God, are here.
Though the nations war, though the peoples battle,
though the empire falters, we will not fear.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY

*You are invited to
make your offering
online at
www.flc-lynn.org/give
or by mail. Please
continue to give during
this time to support the
ongoing ministry of our
congregation.*

Star in the East
William Allen Pasch

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid; Star in the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Hail the blest morn! See the great Mediator down from the regions of glory descend! Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger. Lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining; low lies his head with the beasts of the stall. Angels adore him in slumber reclining, Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion, odors of Edom and off'rings divine? Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation, vainly with gifts would his favor secure. Richer by far is the heart's adoration; dearer to God are the prayers of the poor. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid. Star in the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission for the world

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

God Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

DISMISSAL

Be at peace. Shine with the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

Chorale Prelude on ITALIAN HYMN
Richard Proulx

Join us for virtual coffee hour!

At **11:30 AM** (or shortly after worship concludes) you are invited to grab a cup of coffee and a snack and join us on Zoom for a virtual coffee hour! If your computer has a camera and you'd like to use video chat, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88484060366> and follow the instructions. You may need to install a free piece of software. If you would like to call in on your phone, dial **(929) 205-6099** and enter meeting ID **884 8406 0366**. It won't be as good as the Fireside Room, but it will allow us to check in!

MUSIC NOTES

Daryl Hollinger, a contemporary American organist and composer, wrote the prelude – one part of his set of variations based on the melody of our gathering hymn, *Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God*. This hymn tune, named CHRISTE SANCTORUM is a French melody that first appeared in a hymnal named *The Paris Antiphoner* (1681), although in this collection it was named CHRISTE PASTORUM. This melody remained obscure for centuries until Ralph Vaughan Williams discovered it and wrote his own harmonization for his 1906 *English Hymnal*. In this hymnal, it was paired with and named after a translation of *Christe sanctorum decus angelorum* ('Christ, the fair glory of the holy angels'), a 9th century office hymn for the feast of St. Michael and All Angels. The Postlude, based on the melody of our sending hymn, was written by Richard Proulx (1937 – 2010), who was the long-time organist and Director of Music at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago. This melody, named ITALIAN HYMN, was composed by Felice de Giardini (b. Turin, Italy, 1716; d. Moscow, Russia, 1796) as well as three others for inclusion in Martin Madan's Collection of Psalm and Hymn Tunes (1769), published to benefit the Lock Hospital in London where Madan was chaplain.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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***We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation,
welcoming and serving all people.***