

## **Home Worship January 10<sup>th</sup> Baptism of Our Lord**

**Welcome to worship. We begin with some announcements.**

**It is with a heavy heart that I must tell you that Gary Parke, husband of Nancy Parke died in Christ Friday. You may find more information on the Polo Family Funeral website.**

**Also Reverend Andrew Tetzloff died in Christ Friday as well, in Indiana, and his obituary was sent to the St. Mark's congregational email list. Pastor Tetzloff was the pastor of St. Mark's from 1967 to 1986 nearly 20 years. Our prayers are with both families.**

**This week we also welcome into our family of faith Kayla Hunt and her 5 year old daughter Amelia as they were baptized privately this week.**

**I watched, as you probably did, the march on our nation's capitol Wednesday on media. We were all taken back to see our own citizens in an angry assault on one another. We must all pray for peace and that all God's people are heard in a peaceful way in our nation and that truth and lies be sorted out. Freedom and democracy are too precious to have hate and prejudice divide us. I will continue to pray for peace and unity.**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

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.**

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ☩ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

## **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 29**

<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 as king forevermore.**

<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.

**The Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:4-11**

**Glory to you O Lord**

*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."

The word of the Lord.....

**Praise to you O Christ**

## Sermon

According to Mark, *“<sup>10</sup>And just as he (Jesus) was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.”* The image of the dove as a symbol of the Holy Spirit is seen in our church buildings and on other things like my baptism certificate and the cross wall hanging given as a gift by a friend.

The word Baptism as translated from the Greek means to “immerse or dip” in water. By the time of the New Testament the term was used generically for 'washing' or 'cleansing' in different ways. Water is the most valuable resource we need for life – for health and for cleanliness. Civilizations lived and died based on the availability of water and still do today. Water is critical for our spiritual survival as well.

The word Spirit as translated from the Greek is “Pneuma.” Pneuma means breath, or “breath of life.” We definitely need “a breath of fresh pneuma” in this turbulent year. A breath of fresh spirit, connecting us back to our baptisms, an encouraging word of blessings and promise is given. We are claimed in our baptism by a power greater than the world we know and we are not alone. We are held. God’s breath is the word of God over that water.

I have been the Pastor at St. Mark’s Lutheran for nearly 14 years. You might think one of the following would be my greatest joy: preaching, comforting people, praying with people in tough times, performing weddings or presiding at funerals. All of these activities are blessed ways to serve, however the one activity that is the most extraordinary is “baptizing”. Parents bring infants in special outfits and some sleep in peace through God’s grace being poured out on them. Some cry loudly and some are wide eyed and some even laugh. Toddlers splash in the water sometimes. I remember 3 year old Alivia stepped up on a stool for her baptism. She put her little hands on both sides of the bowl, bracing herself, closed her eyes tightly and received God’s grace. She came up from the water giggling. Then there was 87 year old Robert who sobbed after his baptism. I have baptized 88 individuals of every age and I will tell you that something beyond understanding happens.

As Christians we understand that baptism is commanded by Jesus in scripture. It’s easy to forget why we do it. When we are baptized, we are born again in the family of Christ. When

we are baptized we are made clean of our sinfulness, over and over and over and over. Baptism is our entry into the community of Christ called church. We are made free to live out our faith in caring for humanity and creation. We are marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Baptism comes with responsibility. It is the beginning of our faith journey. Sometime it's a difficult journey. Often a baptism is celebrated and for some, it isn't even thought about until funeral planning. Promises are made in Lutheran baptism: to worship, study scripture and *"trust God, to proclaim Christ through word and deed, to care for others and the world God made, and to work for justice and peace."* This week, in a wounded country, our baptismal promises to trust God, live as Jesus tells us, care for others and work for justice and peace....are all good things to focus on.

Being baptized is probably one of the most dangerous things we can do. Our baptisms are passports to places we never thought we would go. That command of baptism is a command to care for and serve in ways we never thought possible. It can take us to faraway places like Romania, to a neighbor next door or donating to pantries and other special needs. It can take us to the bedside of a dying person or the police station to collect a wayward teen. It can take us to the nearest homeless shelter – to either help or ask for a place to stay. We don't always know where God is leading us, but through the water and words of our baptism, we are made ready. "A breath of fresh pneuma" breath of life, be upon you, Amen.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need. *A brief silence.* For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins,

let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth, that God's goodness is revealed through creation and faithful stewards care for all God has made,

let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the nations of the world and their leaders, for laborers busy both day and night, and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their strength wisely,  
let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who are newly baptized especially **Kayla and Amelia**. For the sick and those who provide medical care, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for all who suffer **especially Lisa Miller and Brad Shippert**. **We pray for the families suffering with the coronavirus and we pray for an end to the virus with safe vaccinations and treatments. We pray for those in care facilities: Sibyl, Barb, Tammy, Trudy, Jessica, Hazel, Jeanne, Linda, Ed and Marian. We pray for those in military service: Logan, JJ, Bryan, Dustin, Brad and Travis** that God shower compassion,  
let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the congregation, for students returning to school, for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace,  
let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, **especially Gary Parke and Reverend Andrew Tetzloff**, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations. We pray for comfort and peace for their families,  
let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

### **Prayer for Offering**

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. **Amen.**

### **Gathered into one by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray as Jesus taught ...**

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.

### **Invitation to Communion**

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed.

## **Holy Communion Together**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Take your bread/cracker	The body of Christ given for you
Take you juice/wine/water	The blood of Christ shed for you
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.	

## **Prayer after Communion**

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. **Amen.**

## **Blessing**

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**Thank you to all who continue to support the work of the church.**

**Stay in touch. Please call if you or someone you know needs help and or prayer.**