

# THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

## First Sunday after the Epiphany

United with Christ

January 10, 2021



**AS WE GATHER:** Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. Such a day is also a good time to remember our own Baptism. In Baptism, we are buried with Christ. We are united with Him in a death like His. In Baptism, we are also raised to new life as re-creations. As we are united to Christ in death, we will also be united with Him in resurrection when He returns and raises the dead.

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**HYMN** “God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven” #877

- 1 God, who made the earth and heaven,  
Darkness and light:  
You the day for work have given,  
For rest the night.  
May Your angel guards defend us,  
Slumber sweet Your mercy send us,  
Holy dreams and hopes attend us  
All through the night.
  
- 2 And when morn again shall call us  
To run life’s way,  
May we still, whate’er befall us,  
Your will obey.  
From the pow’r of evil hide us,  
In the narrow pathway guide us,

Never be Your smile denied us  
All through the day.

3 Guard us waking, guard us sleeping,  
And when we die,  
May we in Your mighty keeping  
All peaceful lie.  
When the last dread call shall wake us,  
Then, O Lord, do not forsake us,  
But to reign in glory take us  
With You on high.

4 Holy Father, throned in heaven,  
All-holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, freely given,  
Blest Three in One:  
Grant us grace, we now implore You,  
Till we lay our crowns before You  
And in worthier strains adore You  
While ages run.

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## INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

P: Our Lord calls us to mission--

**C: to make disciples of all nations,**

P: to seek and save the lost,

**C: to proclaim the Gospel to all.**

P: in this name we go, in this name we baptize,

**C: in this name we teach.**

P: Our Lord is with us always.

**C: In His presence we have strength to carry out our co-mission:**

P: to be His instruments for bringing His powerful Gospel to people everywhere.

**C: Amen.**

### ***CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON***

P: Lord God, our Father, today we confess before You our sins of commission--

**C: Each day we commit sins of thought, word, and action, for we hurt other people, we think impure thoughts, and we say unkind words. We ask Your forgiveness for Jesus' sake.**

P: Lord God, our Father, we also confess today before You our sins of omission.

**C: Each day we have left undone things that could have served others, we have neglected study of Your Word and prayer, we have omitted from our lives the priority of loving You. We ask Your forgiveness for Jesus' sake.**

P: Lord God, our Father, we confess before You today also our sins of no mission.

**C: Each day we are sent with Your commission to make disciples, yet each day we squander opportunities to share our faith. We have used too few of our many resources to further Your mission throughout the world. And we have neglected support in prayer and thought for our missionaries here and abroad. We have not been partners**

**in Your mission. We ask Your forgiveness for Jesus' sake.**

P: The God of grace and mercy sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to our world to reconcile us to Himself. This has been accomplished on the cross and at the empty tomb. God has forgiven all your sins, fully and freely. As His called and ordained servant, I gladly forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**✠ WORD ✠**

**INTROIT** *Psalm 2:7–11, 12c; antiphon: Isaiah 42:1a*

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear,  
and rejoice with trembling,  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

**HYMN OF PRAISE** All Who Believe and Are Baptized  
#601

- 1 All who believe and are baptized  
Shall see the Lord's salvation;  
Baptized into the death of Christ,  
They are a new creation.  
Through Christ's redemption they shall stand  
Among the glorious, heav'nly band  
Of ev'ry tribe and nation.
- 2 With one accord, O God, we pray:  
Grant us Your Holy Spirit.  
Help us in our infirmity  
Through Jesus' blood and merit.  
Grant us to grow in grace each day  
That by this sacrament we may  
Eternal life inherit.

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**SALUTATION**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one

God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Genesis 1:1–5* (God creates the heavens and the earth.)

**1** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **3** And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *Psalms 117:1–2a; 96:8*

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol Him, all peoples!

For great is His steadfast love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;  
bring an offering, and come into His courts!

**EPISTLE** *Romans 6:1–11* (We are baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection.)

**1**What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? **2**By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? **3**Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4**We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order

that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**      *Mark 1:11b*

Alleluia. You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.  
Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**      *Mark 1:4–11* (Jesus is baptized by John.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild

honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <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 when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH:** The Apostle’s Creed

**C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Father Welcomes” #605

ref      Father welcomes all His children  
            To His fam’ly through His Son.  
            Father giving His salvation,  
            Life forever has been won.



- 1 Little children, come to me,  
For My kingdom is of these.  
Life and love I have to give,  
Mercy for your sin. Refrain
- 2 In the water, in the Word,  
In His promise, be assured:  
Those who are baptized and believe  
Shall be born again. Refrain
- 3 Let us daily die to sin;  
Let us daily rise with Him,  
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,  
Live in the peace of God. Refrain

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**SERMON** “Jesus's Baptism Is Our Baptism”- St. Mark 1:4-11

**VIRTUAL INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS** (Lutheran Service Book, pages 246-248)

P: Beloved in the Lord, Holy Scripture admonishes us that  
"all things should be done decently and in order."

1 Corinthians 14:40

To that end, the constitution and bylaws of this congregation establish various offices to which men and women are elected and appointed to serve. In so doing, the Church follows the example of the Early Christian Church as described in Acts, chapter six:

‘The twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this

duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Acts 6:2-4

The apostle Peter writes in his first epistle:

‘As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies - in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To *him* belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.’

1 Peter 4: 10 -1 1

P: The following members have been elected to serve as members of the church Council for 2021:

Chairperson: Alan S.

Secretary: Carol W.

Alternate Secretary: Erika Ch.

Treasurer: Barb W.

Financial Secretary: Diane G.

Elders:	Ken B.	Nelson H.
	Both Ch.	David H.
	Mike F.	Darcy K.
	Janko G.	Alejandro M.
	Jack G.	

Trustees:	Sharon B.	Ron M.
	Colin C.	Fred N.
	Bill L.	Walter P.
	Melissa M.	Marian R.
	Gene M.	Fred W.
	Keith M.	Beth W.
	Alexander M.	

Lay Delegate: Carol P.  
Alternate Delegate: Sara H.P  
Auditors: David H. Matt P. Kayla P.

Also the following members have been elected in our congregation as directives of LWML-Canada. They are:

President: Pam O.  
Secretary: Sandy S.  
Treasurer: Elsie W.  
Development and Mission: Shirley K.  
Arline H.

Altar Guild: Connie M.

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, you have been chosen to fill specific offices and positions of responsibility at Faith-Grace Lutheran Church. You are to work with the pastors, that our life together in Christ may be orderly and pleasing in His sight.

You are to see that the services of God's house are held at the proper times, that the Word of God is purely preached and taught according to the Lutheran Confessions, that the Sacraments of Christ are administered according to His institution, that provision is made for the Christian instruction of young and old, that the erring are admonished, and that discipline is maintained.

You are to see that the temporal affairs of the congregation are properly administered and that proper support is provided for the workers of this congregation. You are to assist in caring for the poor and the sick, in cultivating harmony among the members, in promoting the general welfare of the congregation, and in furthering the kingdom of Christ here and throughout the world.

While holiness of life and obedience to Christ are expected of all members of the congregation, it is especially important that you, as office-bearers in His Church, show yourselves, by word and example, to be faithful to Him in service and Christian devotion.

In the presence of God and of this congregation. I therefore ask you: Do you accept the office (s) entrusted to you, and do you promise faithfully to carry out your duties, trusting in the Lord and conforming yourself to His Word in accordance with the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? If so, then answer: I do.

*R: I do*

P: Beloved in the Lord, we have heard the promises of faithfulness spoken by these men and women whom you have selected to serve as officers of Faith – Grace Lutheran Church. Do you promise to support them in their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them to the best of the abilities that God has given you, so that He may be glorified and His work be done in our midst? If so, then answer: We do.

**C: We do.**

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, I install you as officers of Faith-Grace Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: The almighty and most merciful God enlighten and strengthen you in your offices that you may be good and faithful stewards to the glory of His name and the good of His people.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks that You have raised up these servants for work among Your people. We humbly implore You to grant them, by Your Holy Spirit, those gifts needed for the faithful carrying out of their tasks, most especially wisdom, strength, and willing hearts. Let Your blessing rest on this congregation. Strengthen the faith, quicken the love, and enkindle the zeal of its members, that Your name may be glorified and that here and in all places under heaven the kingdom of Your Son may be advanced. We remember with thanksgiving those who have faithfully served Your people in 2020 and have now completed their time of service. We pray that in the end of days we, with all Your faithful people, may hear the voice of Christ saying: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for You from the foundation of the world"; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Go in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

*1 Corinthians 15:58*

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Dear heavenly Father, in the Jordan River, You revealed Jesus to be Your beloved Son. Lord, by Mighty work and wonder,

**C: reveal Your grace to us.**

P: Lord, strengthen all those who have been baptized, especially those who were baptized last year, with Your heavenly protection. Lead them to find their true identity in You as Your beloved sons and daughters. Lord, by mighty work and wonder,

**C: reveal Your grace to us.**

P: Lord, comfort all those who are suffering in grief. Console them with the sure and certain hope that just as we have been united with Christ in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. Lord, by mighty work and wonder,

**C: reveal Your grace to us.**

P: Lord, give courage to all those who live in conflict with their family members, especially regarding differences of faith or other issues. Lord, by mighty work and wonder,

**C: reveal Your grace to us.**

P: Lord, bless all pastors, church planters, missionaries, and servants in Your Church who proclaim Your Word and administer Your Sacraments. Embolden them to seek and to save the lost and bring those who have strayed back into Your family. Lord, by mighty work and wonder,

**C: reveal Your grace to us.**

P: Lord, place Your healing hand upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [especially . . .]. Have mercy upon them, and lead them on the path to health according to Your will. Lord, by mighty work and wonder,

**C: reveal Your grace to us.**

*[Other petitions here. After each petition the pastor prays: Lord, in Your mercy, and the people respond: **hear our prayer.**]*

P: Lord, we commend all these things to You in the name of Your beloved Son, Jesus. Lord, by mighty work and wonder,  
**C: reveal Your grace to us.**

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom now and teach us to pray:

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**C: 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.**

**BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” #790 v. 1, 4, 5

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear  
Now to His temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!

4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and  
defend you;  
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend  
you.

Ponder anew  
What the Almighty can do  
As with His love He befriends you.

5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises  
before Him!

Let the Amen  
Sound from His people again;  
Gladly forever adore Him!

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