

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Aitkin, Minnesota**  
**January 9, 2022**  
**The Baptism of our Lord**  
**ONLINE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

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

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the

grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{T}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

**Introit**

*Ps. 2:7–11, 12c; antiphon: Is. 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 be- |  
gotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your | heritage,\*  
and the ends of the earth your pos- | session.

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 ref- | uge in him.

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

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

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

**Collect 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**

*Isaiah 43:1–7*

But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.  
Because you are precious in my eyes,  
and honored, and I love you,  
I give men in return for you,  
peoples in exchange for your life.  
Fear not, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you.  
I will say to the north, Give up,  
and to the south, Do not withhold;

bring my sons from afar  
and my daughters from the end of the earth,  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **Epistle**

*Romans 6:1–11*

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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.

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. 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. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **Holy Gospel**

*Luke 3:15–22*

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; 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 be to Thee, O Christ.**

## **Apostles' 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.**

**Sermon Text – Luke 3:15-22**

**Sermon Theme – You Are My Beloved**

There is a sense of urgency in the preaching of John the Baptizer. When he began preaching in the wilderness he proclaimed: **“Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”** (Matthew 3:2). The **“kingdom of heaven”** is not something that is coming sometime way down the road. It is **“at hand.”** It is not far away. It is here, now! For that reason there is an urgency to repent, now!

Many of those who heard John’s preaching did repent. We are told that **“Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing**

**their sins**" (Matthew 3:5-6). The baptism they received was a **"baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins"** (Luke 3:3).

Now in our text for today we hear how the people who had come out to hear John were wondering if John **"might be the Christ"** (Luke 3:15). The Christ is "The Anointed One," the Messiah that God had promised to send in the Old Testament.

In answering the question, John says, **"I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire"** (Luke 3:16-17). Remember, **"the kingdom of heaven is at hand"** and it will include the separation of the wheat from the chaff. There is going to be a judgment. That's why there is an urgency to repent!

It wasn't long before the One, about whom John is speaking, came to be baptized. That would be Jesus, of course. When He was baptized we are told that **"the heavens were opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased"** (Luke 3:21-22). This all shows that Jesus truly is the Christ, the Anointed One. In His baptism He was anointed by the Holy Spirit who **"descended on him in bodily form, like a dove"** (Luke 3:22).

So, why was Jesus baptized? He didn't need a baptism of repentance. He had no sin to repent for. Yet, He is baptized. Why? Well, let me tell you: He didn't do it for Himself; He did it for us. He did it so that He could open heaven to us.

Heaven was closed when Adam and Eve fell into sin and they were expelled from Paradise into a world of pain and suffering and death. We know the pain of sin. We have all suffered because of sin. We all are living a life in which the possibility of death is hanging over our heads.

But what are we told in our text? On the day Jesus was baptized, **"the heavens were opened"** again. It is all because Jesus, the very Son of God, the Son with whom the Father was **"well pleased,"** had come to take our place in this world of pain and suffering and death.

It was all so that we could have a place in heaven. He experienced the pain of being beaten by Pilate's soldiers. He suffered as He was hanging on the cross and the people there made fun of Him. And, yes, He died, the death we deserve. Because He did we can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as we receive a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

In our epistle lesson for today, St. Paul talks about baptism. What He is telling us is this: Just as Jesus was united with us when He became one of us so also when we are baptized we are united to Him and His death and resurrection.

With His baptism, Jesus begins His journey to the cross. There He would take upon Himself the punishment we deserve for our sin. He died to set us free. He died so

that as St. Paul says, **“death no longer has dominion”** over us (Romans 6:9).

In our Old Testament lesson for today, Isaiah may not have realized it, but he was talking about baptism. Listen again to what the Lord says through him. **“But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.**

**<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. <sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior”** (Isaiah 43:1-3a).

In Baptism, the Lord calls you by name. In Baptism, He made you His own. In Baptism He said that you were His beloved child. In Baptism, the flames of God’s wrath against your sin were quenched by the water of forgiveness and life. Now His fire is not a consuming fire but a purifying one. He who created you has redeemed you.

We don’t need to be afraid. He is with us not only as we pass through the waters. He is with us as we live in this world of pain and suffering and death. He is with us to forgive us. He is with us and will help us to live out of faith.

AMEN

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

Heavenly Father, You have fulfilled all righteousness in the Baptism of Your beloved Son. As we have received this righteousness by our Baptism into Him, make us bold in faith and fervent in love, that we may live out heavenly lives even in this world.

Lord God, as You have opened heaven to Your Church through Holy Baptism, give her faithful teachers to proclaim Your Son, Jesus Christ, and all that accords with godliness, that many would repent of their sins and join Him in His heavenly kingdom.

Preserve the family, O God, especially all Christian homes. Turn husband and wife toward one another in love, equip fathers and mothers for their holy duty as teachers of the faith, and preserve all children in the saving faith and certain promises of their Baptism unto life everlasting.

Almighty Father, You break the wicked with Your rod for the sake of Your beloved children. Help us at all times to serve You with fear and to seek refuge always in the kingdom of Your Son.

Heavenly Father, Your Son, Jesus, is the true Christ and the true king of this world. Grant great humility to the rulers of the nations, [*especially \_\_\_\_\_,*] that they would submit to the preaching of His Holy Word for the sake of their own souls and for the good of Your holy people.

O Lord, You sent Your Son to serve Your people and deliver them from sin and death. Because we long for Your salvation, bring us out of our afflictions and uphold all those bruised in spirit [*especially \_\_\_\_\_*].

Lord God, heavenly Father, You manifested Yourself with the Holy Spirit in the fullness of grace at the Baptism of

Your dear Son. With Your voice, You directed us to the One who has borne our sins, that we may receive grace and forgiveness. Keep us, we implore You, in the true faith. Since we have been baptized in accordance with Your command and the example of Your Son, strengthen our faith by Your Holy Spirit and lead us to everlasting life and salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

- 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.
- C **Amen**

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## Acknowledgments

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