

# Worship in the Home

A resource provided by First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rush City, MN

## Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday, 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.



Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle and place a bowl of water in remembrance of your baptism.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathering Song

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory/Emmanuel"

Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth  
You who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth  
Come and worship  
Come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King  
Shepherds in the field abiding  
Watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with us is now residing  
Yonder shines the infant light  
Come and worship  
Come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King

*Emmanuel Emmanuel  
You are the God who saves us  
Worthy of all our praises  
Emmanuel Emmanuel  
Come have Your way among us  
We welcome You here Lord Jesus  
Come have Your way among us  
We welcome You here Lord Jesus*

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 glo- | ry and strength.  
<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty 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 pow- | erful 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 ce- | dars 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 wilder- | ness 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 a- | bove the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.  
<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength | to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings 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. (Acts 9:1-5)

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.*

<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.”

Sermon

Many people go out to John, confessing their sins and hoping his baptism will be the sign of a new age, an indication of God creating all things anew. We, too, hope for such a new beginning and we, too, have been baptized, confessing our sins. Jesus also is baptized, hidden among us sinners, joining us in longing for a new age. But, in the text, only he sees something utterly new: the torn-open heavens and the descending dove. Only he hears the voice of God declaring him the beloved Son. But we hear too! This voice over the waters comes here, where we are reading these texts. Jesus Christ, whose identity continues to be hidden in Mark’s Gospel until he is finally hidden by the crucifixion, is revealed to us as living in the word and sacraments of the church, a word we today may hear in our homes. In encountering Jesus Christ, we see and hear the holy Trinity, the Voice from above the heavens, the Son in the water, and the descending Spirit, making all things new, as if the creation of Genesis 1 is all around us again, as if Noah’s flood is finally over. Our baptism gathers us into the life of the Trinity, making us, like the ancient Christian Ephesians, witnesses to this new creation.

Song of the Day

“O Living Breath of God”

O living Breath of God,  
wind at the beginning upon the waters;  
O living Breath of God,  
bearing the creation to wondrous birth:

*Come now, and fill our spirits;  
pour out your gifts abundant.  
O living Breath of God,  
Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.*

O living Breath of God,  
by whose pow'r the Son came to birth among us;  
O living Breath of God,  
who to the creation gives life anew: *Refrain*  
O living Breath of God,  
bearing us to life through baptismal waters;  
O living Breath of God,  
sighing with creation for freedom's birth: *Refrain*

Prayers

On this Sunday of the baptism of our Lord, let us offer our prayers for all in need, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "Give us your blessings of peace."

*A brief silence.*

For the worldwide church; for those who minister in the church; for all who will be baptized this year; and for their godparents and sponsors: that the Holy Spirit will empower all the faithful for lives of service, let us pray.

*A brief silence.*

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

For the waters of the earth; for the seas, the lakes, the rivers; for the wells that provide drinking water; and for the water that is piped into our homes: that God provide clean and nourishing water for all living things, let us pray.

*A brief silence.*

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

For the nations of the world and their leaders; for all efforts to prevent war and reduce violence; for the armed forces; for police officers; and for peacemakers: that God inspire all people to work for the harmonious well-being of others, let us pray.

*A brief silence.*

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

For students; for teachers and school administrators; for parents assisting their children in home schooling; and for young people who are finding a way toward graduation: that as the academic year resumes, God give resilience to everyone in the search for education, let us pray.

*A brief silence.*

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

For all who are in trouble, want, or sickness; for the countless who are suffering with COVID-19; for medical workers; for people who are hungry or homeless, imprisoned or lonely; and for those we name here. . . . that God grant health and wholeness to a world so filled with pain, let us pray.

*A brief silence.*

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

For ourselves: that we rejoice in our adoption as members of God's family, and that now in this silence we bring to God our heart's requests, let us pray.

*A longer period of silence.*

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

In gratitude for our beloved dead, especially . . . , we offer our praise for all the baptized who have accompanied us and supported us and taught us throughout our days; that at our end we join with them in everlasting joy, let us pray.

*A brief silence.*

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

Almighty and most merciful God, you are the mighty Voice from heaven, you are our beloved Savior, you are the descending Dove. We give you thanks for all your goodness and tender mercies, and we ask you to accept our prayers for the sake of your mercy, today and forever.

**Amen.**

**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.**

Blessing

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

Sending Song

“All My Fountains”

This dry and desert land  
I tell myself keep walking on  
Hear something up ahead  
Water falling like a song  
An everlasting stream  
Your river carries me home  
Let it flow let it flow  
All my fountains

A flood for my soul  
A well that never will run dry  
I've rambled on my own  
Never believing I would find  
An everlasting stream  
Your river carries me home  
Let it flow let it flow

*Open the heavens  
Come living water  
All my fountains are in You  
You're strong like a river  
Your love is running through  
All my fountains are in You*

**Devotional Music Links**

For your individual or group devotion, you may choose to listen to the following choral recordings made available through Augsburg Fortress:

[My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness](https://youtu.be/RzIqsFMhUOk)

<https://youtu.be/RzIqsFMhUOk>

[Borning Cry](https://youtu.be/HRwcXAzD6Q8)

<https://youtu.be/HRwcXAzD6Q8>

[Spirit of the Lord](https://youtu.be/b9qvgM7UZ4Q)

<https://youtu.be/b9qvgM7UZ4Q>

**Readings for the Week**

**Monday** Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36

**Tuesday** Acts 22:2-16

**Wednesday** Isaiah 41:14-20

**Thursday** Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

**Friday** (commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
renewer of society martyr, 1968)

Acts 13:16-25

**Saturday** 1 Samuel 2:21-25

**Second Sunday after Epiphany:**

(commemoration of Antony of Egypt,  
renewer of the church, c. 356;  
Pachomius, renewer of the church, 346)

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

**Upcoming Commemorations**

**Martin Luther King Jr.,**

**renewer of society, martyr, died 1968**

**Friday, January 15, 2021**

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

“Angels from the Realm of Glory/Emmanuel”

CCLI Song # 7065163

Brenton Brown | Henry Thomas Smart | James Montgomery | Michael Rossback | Paul Baloche

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“O Living Breath of God”

Text: Osvaldo Catena, 1920-1986;

tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923

Music: Swedish folk tune

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“All My Fountains”

CCLI Song # 5925670

Chris Tomlin | Christy Nockels | Daniel Carson | Nathan Nockels

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