

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 10, 2021 - 10:00 AM

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223
www.livingspringscolumbia.org

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.



Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus... (Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-2)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand as able

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation

People: Amen.

Pastor: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. In the waters of Baptism, you joined us to the death & resurrection of Jesus—and with the laying on of hands, you fulfilled the ancient promise by giving us the Holy Spirit. We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People: Amen.

We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.

GATHERING SONG

"Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.

*Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized; Text: F. Bland Tucker; Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman
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APOSTOLIC GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. You may collect your coins or dollars at home for the
bucket collection and bring them to in-person worship, to the Parking Lot Communion Distributions, or drop them off at the
church office. Current collection is for the Disaster Response Fund.*

*For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)
For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)
Christ is lead-ing us ...
For-ward in faith!*

*Forward in faith (clap, clap, clap)
Forward in faith (clap, clap, clap)
Keepin' our eyes on Jesus,
We're runnin' the race!*

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

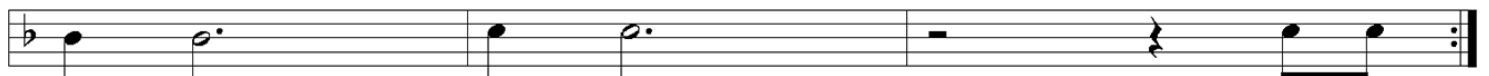
"Born, Reborn"



Born re - born! Born re-born! Formed re-formed, Souls with glad-ness now a - dorned! Born re -



born! Born re-born! Formed re-formed, Praise our God for-ev-er-more!
1.Drown us. Raise us,
2.Name us, heal us,



Mark us, Claim us!
wash us, seal us!
Born re

"Born, Reborn" words and music by Justin Rimbo, Used by Permission.

FIRST READING

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.

Lector: A reading from Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 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. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. (Genesis 1:1-5)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29

Lector: Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

Lector: The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**People: The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

Lector: The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**People: the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

Lector: The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**People: The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

Lector: 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!"

**People: The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

Lector: O LORD, give strength to your people;

People: give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING

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.

Lector: A reading from Acts.

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. (Acts 19:1-7)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

We stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

People: 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." (Mark 1:4-11)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

We are seated

MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink



HYMN OF THE DAY

"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.
 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.
 All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.

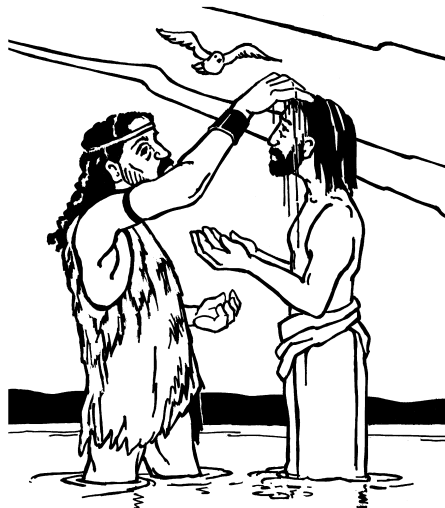


Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



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.
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

*Baptized and Set Free; Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner; Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen Soldner
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We stand as able

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

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

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

People: **I renounce them.**

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

People: **I renounce them.**

Pastor: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

People: **I renounce them.**

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

People: **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.**

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **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.**

Pastor: 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?

People: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

People: **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

People: **Amen.**



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assist: 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 +

Assist: For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: 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.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: 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.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: 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 the grieving and those who comfort them, we pray especially for: *Ann Lynn Caughman; Elizabeth Maddox; Helen Bradham; Bill Ramsey; Maddie/Matt McCormick; Anne Hanford; Margarete Zacour; Dolores Harmon; Rhea Pye; Wendy McKenzie; Gregory Collins; Karl Schmidt; Henrietta Kaiser; Ed Brennan; Charles Kauffman; Bunie Talbert; Pam Deselem; Brandon/Meghan Ramsey; family of Horace McMurphy; Bob Holmstrom; Kelly Koziol; Lila Bell; Wilma Bracey; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...* For all who suffer, that God shower compassion, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For the congregation gathered here, 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.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Pastor: O God, as we face ongoing uncertainties around coronavirus, we continue to pray for ..., let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."

OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.



OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: 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.

THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: We have been made one as the body of Christ through the waters of baptism. In our journey of faith & life, we are fed with Christ's own body and blood. Even though we do not celebrate Holy Communion in this virtual gathering, we pause to give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion — as we anticipate, with joy, those times when we are fed at your table.

Pastor: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we offer our praise and give you thanks. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation; David fought Goliath; the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he conquered death and granted the people your life.

We give you thanks and praise for the gift of Holy Communion and for the blessing it brings to your people. Even though we abstain from your meal in this moment of worship, for reasons you understand, we still sense the power of your forgiveness and grace offered to us and the world through your Son. Awaiting those times when we share in this meal, we still cherish in our hearts the words which Jesus gave us:

People: 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."

We take time for prayer and reflection as we sing together, giving thanks to God for all the times we have been fed with our Lord's body & blood—and look forward to the time when we gather with others around the Lord's Table.

COMMUNION REFLECTION

"Beautiful Savior"

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Beautiful Savior; Words: Gesubgbuch, tr. Joseph A. Seiss; Music: SCHONSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

People: 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

Pastor: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter † keep you in peace.

People: **Amen**

SENDING SONG

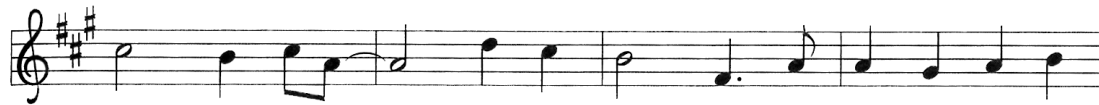
"Shine, Jesus, Shine"



Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;



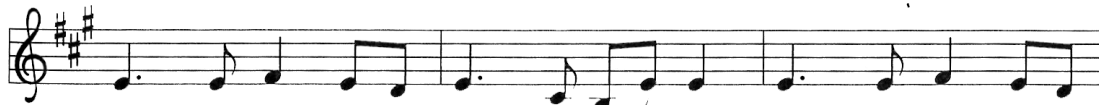
blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.



Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;



send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!



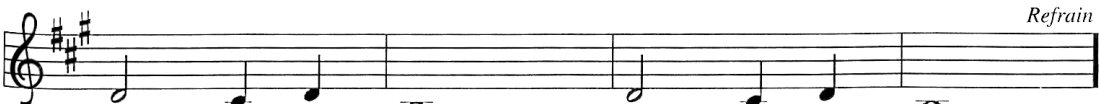
1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,



set us free by the truth you now bring us.
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.



Shine on me, shine on me:
Shine on me, shine on me:

Shine, Jesus, Shine; words and music by Graham Kendrick
CCLI Song #30426 © 1987 Make Way Music
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DISMISSAL

Assist: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

God's Love Shared Through You ...



One Life Deeper !

*Our prayerful goal is that God will work in every LS disciple to have an impact of faith and hope in the life of one person during the year. **What shoes might they be wearing?** It may be someone you know already—at work, at home, at school, in the neighborhood, in your daily life. It may be a stranger whom God will bring to you this year. How will the Spirit work through you to bring someone deeper? **Deeper in Christ, Deeper in Grace, Deeper in Love!***

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS: inviting, involving, mentoring, discipling relationships 1 person at a time!

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: for the work of God's kingdom in our community and world!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE: with those who are hurting, alone, marginalized, or feeling unloved!

SHARING GOD'S STORIES: so we do not remain silent about God's ongoing work in the world!

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD:

A Hitch in the Story

Was it wildfire nerve? Unchecked audacity? Holy purpose? The hammering of parents' expectations? Maybe the privilege of being kin to Jesus? Or was it eccentricity as peculiar as his diet and wardrobe? What desire drove John to the wilderness, into the water of the Jordan? What ignited his fiery proclamation of repentance and forgiveness? What current pulled crowds from city and country into the water?

One can say, rightly, that it was ordained by God, compelled by the Holy Spirit, predicted by an angel. Yet there is a hitch in the story. Four easily missed but utterly important words gum up the works of any timid or tidy explanations: "I am not worthy" (Mark 1:7).

Something in John's four words opens the baptismal story to torrents of wonder, floods of hope, drenching relief and recovery.

For some years the two friends had been together through what we often call the thick and the thin. They knew this and that, bits and pieces, the here and there of one another's lives. And not only the trivial. They probed each other's shadowed corridors and crumbling edges. Still, there were secrets, withholdings. One day, for reasons wrapped with nothing but the ragged swaddling of unaccountable grace, one said to the other, "It has been such a long, lonely journey, carrying a suitcase filled with secrets, the shames and deceptions I've folded and packed." Then he began to tell. To confess. A repenting, a turning. His friend's eyes filled with tears that watered his cheeks and dripped into his lap. All he could say through the flood was, "I love you all the more."

Born literally of grace, breaking the dam of John's four words, "I am not worthy," is one stronger word, the word of the more powerful one: forgiveness. To John and to us who say, "I am not worthy," Jesus answers, "Yes, yes, yes, you are."

January Book of the Month: Proverbs