



Baptism of Our Lord

Worship-at-home

January 10, 2021

God's love for us is never ending!

Prelude

Thank you Keith Haan

Welcome to worship-at-home on this Sunday when we celebrate the baptism of our Lord. God's love hovers over all creation and proclaims it good. God's love hovers over our lives and calls us "beloved".

Happy Birthday to Trudy Crane who celebrates this week.

Zion's annual meeting will be held this year on January 31st. There will be one budget forum on January 24th. Both of these meetings will be via Zoom. You'll be receiving additional information this month regarding links to the meetings and voting procedures.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our Call Committee.

Thank you for your faithful support to Zion's ministry.

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Song of Praise ELW page 139

Thank you Keith Haan

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.

Blessing of the Reader

Thank you Peyton Shields

Readings Genesis 1:1-5

Thank you Shields Family

Psalm 29

Gospel Mark 1:4-11

Reflection

Pastor Elaine Olson

Grace and peace to you. It has been a difficult few days, filled with the fear of a challenge to our government and insurgents storming our capital in Washington D.C. The disruption seems impossible for us in the U.S.

I believe that it is essential on a Sunday when we remember the Baptism of Jesus amid difficulties that we take time to remind ourselves who and whose we are. God has called us God's own and names us beloved. Within strange and challenging times, especially within strange and challenging times, it is crucial to reaffirm that God's love will always abide with us and that we are called beloved.

Please join me in the Thanksgiving for Baptism.

As I stand at the Baptismal Font, I'd like to encourage you to place a bowl of water in front of you. Take a moment to pause this video, or stop reading to fill a bowl of water and put it in front of you.

Imagine your family friends and the company of saints and those of this congregation standing with you. If you are with your family, gather together around the water.

As God's beloved and chosen ones, we gather around water. Water connected to the Word – God's saving promise in Jesus Christ - is the center of Baptism. I invite you to join me in Thanksgiving for Baptism. (ELW)

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

Amen.

A reading from the Psalms: The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters. O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. (*Psalm 29:3, 11*)

Joined to Christ in the waters of Baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of Baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.
Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams, especially the mighty Mississippi.

Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.
Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.
You are the fountain of resurrection.
Praise to you for your saving waters:
Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.
The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock.
Naaman washes his leprosy away,
and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.
Praise to you for the water of Baptism and for your Word
that saves us in this sacrament.

Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.
Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.
Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.
Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Using the water from the bowl in your midst, make the sign of the cross upon yourself or on the forehead of the person standing by you, saying, "I am loved, and I'm a child of God."
Remember, when Jesus stepped out of the water from the River Jordan, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And the voice came from heaven "You are my Son, the Beloved. With you, I am well pleased."

Imagine God tearing apart the chaos of the day, the weariness, the hatred, the pain, the suffering, and says to you, dear friends at Zion, "You are my beloved. With you, I am well pleased."

We go, with Christ by our side, reminding ourselves and others in the world, for what it has forgotten, "You are greatly loved." Amen.

Song ELW 249 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

Thank you Keith Haan

Prayers of the People: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

In thanksgiving, we give you thanks for the gift of Baptism.

For the church throughout the world and its leaders. Grant wisdom and compassion.

For wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth.

For the nations, leaders, laborers, and peacemakers amid strife, May God inspire all people to use their strength wisely.

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.

For the congregation gathered here and the process to call a pastor.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors.

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.**

Lord's Prayer

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.**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES will be in your hands soon. They just arrived and we are considering options for delivery.

ANNUAL REPORTS will be available to voting members on January 17th. If we have your email address on file you will receive a PDF version. A printed copy will be mailed to those who do not have, or have not provided an email.

BUDGET FORUM will take place January 24th via Zoom. We will be communicating instructions prior to that on how to participate.

ANNUAL MEETING will take place on January 31st via Zoom. We will also be communicating instructions on how to participate/vote for that meeting.