

"I baptize you
with water;
but one who is
more powerful than
I is coming ..."

Luke 3:16, NRSV

A Service of Word and Sacrament

Pre-Service Music and Greeting

Invocation

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

C: Amen!

Opening Hymn

“Baptized into Your Name Most Holy”
Christian Worship 294 st. 1–3

1. Baptized into your name most holy,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,
Among your saints, your chosen host,
Buried with Christ and dead to sin.
Your Spirit now shall live within.
2. My loving Father, there you took me
To be henceforth your child and heir.
My faithful Savior, there you let me
The fruit of all your sorrows share.
O Holy Spirit, comfort me
When threat'ning clouds around I see.
3. My faithful God, you fail me never;
Your promise surely will endure.
Oh, cast me not away forever
If words and deeds become impure.
Have mercy when I come defiled;
Forgive, lift up, restore your child.

The Confession of Sins

P: When Jesus was baptized he secured the righteousness God
required for heaven, the very righteousness we lacked. Through

Jesus' obedience to his Father's will, he established a precious, powerful, and effective gift. Our Baptism is important, not only because Jesus commanded it when he said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," it is also important because all of us are born into this world with a deep need for the gifts given through baptism. From our parents we inherited a sinful nature. We are without true fear of God and true faith in God. We are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving up his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words.

C: Baptism means that our sinful nature is drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires are put to death. It also means that a new nature daily arises to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

(The congregation will rise)

P: As we remember what Baptism is and what it offers—a gracious washing with water and renewing of the Holy Spirit—let us come before the Lord and humbly confess our sins.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of

the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

Congregation sings “Baptized into Your Name Most Holy”
Christian Worship 294 st. 4

4. All that I am and love most dearly
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely
And help me your own child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own
Serve any will but yours alone.

The Remembrance of Our Baptism

P: Dearly loved in the Lord. When we were brought to be baptized, our parents obeyed the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who said to Nicodemus, “Unless a man is born again of water and the Spirit, he can not enter the Kingdom of God.” We needed the gift of Baptism. For we were conceived and born in sin, and were under the wrath of God. It is as St. Paul writes: “The wages of sin is death.” Therefore we deserved death because of our sin. However, the God of all mercy and grace would not have us die. So he sent his only begotten Son to secure the righteousness we desperately needed, and to wash away our sin.

In order that we could come to know our Savior, God entrusted his Church with the Means of Grace which conveys faith, forgiveness and salvation. Baptism is one such means. Baptism was instituted by our Savior when he ascended into heaven and said: “Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them all things that I have commanded you.”

Since God’s Word and Jesus’ command have established Baptism, this washing with water is most precious. Through it he awakens and strengthens saving faith. He washes away every spot

and stain of sin. He delivers us from death and the power of the devil. Finally, he gives eternal salvation through faith.

Each of us have had this miracle performed in our lives. Our Lord by means of his Gospel has washed away our sins. He has bestowed on us the gift of faith. He has received us into his Kingdom of grace, and he has made us heirs of eternal life. Although we can not explain this miracle, we accept it because our Lord gives us his word through the Apostle Paul: “God saved us by the washing of rebirth and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

Congregation sings

“All Who Believe”

Christian Worship 299 st. 1 & 2

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.

The Remembrance of Baptism

P: Through the power of the Gospel the Holy Spirit has brought us to faith, and made us recipients of God’s undeserved love in Christ Jesus. Baptism is the visible assurance upon which we can rely. As people who have been baptized, I therefore ask you:

P: Do you believe that you were born in sin, and therefore lost eternally?

C: Yes, I believe.

P: Do you believe in the Triune God: Father, Son, and Spirit?

C: Yes, I believe.

P: Do you believe that this Triune God has planned your salvation in eternity, and carried out in time through grace alone?

C: Yes, I believe.

P: Do you believe that God offers you the forgiveness of sins and the promise of a new and holy life in Holy Baptism?

C: Yes, I believe.

P: As you believe, so may it be. Into this Christian faith you were received through Baptism. Receive the sign of the cross to serve as a daily reminder that you have been redeemed and cleansed by the Crucified Christ, and that you have come to know what your Savior offers you in his love.

May the almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you new life by water and the Spirit, and has forgiven your sins, strengthen you with his grace, and keep you unto life everlasting.

C: Amen!

Song of Praise


P: With the assurance of our Savior's blessing, his peace, and his never-failing presence, we praise his glorious name.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e—



ter — nal; it stands firm in the heav —

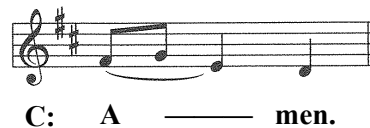
ens. Your faith — ful — ness con — tin — ues for -

ev — er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Bless — ed are they who take ref — uge in him.

Prayer for the Day

P: O dearest Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer, on this day you were revealed as the Son of God and the promised Savior. Help us believe the precious testimony of your Father, as well as the witness of John the Baptist. Lead us to trust in the righteousness you have secured through your perfect obedience. Lead us as well to rejoice in the gift of Baptism which you have made powerful and effective. When doubts, temptations, or Satan's accusations would cause us to question your love, or sin cause us to forsake you, return us to your side by the comforting assurance Baptism provides. All praise belongs to you, O Jesus, for you are the only true God who lives and rules with the Father and the Spirit—throughout endless ages.



C: A — — — men.

The Lessons from God's Word

Old Testament

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I see a king for myself among his sons."

²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."

The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will let you know what you are to do. You are to anoint for me the person that I point out to you."

⁴So Samuel did what the LORD had told him to do and went to Bethlehem. Trembling with fear, the elders of the city came to meet him. They said, "Do you come in peace?"

⁵He said, "Yes, in peace. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." He consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they had come, he looked at Eliab and said, "Certainly this is the LORD's anointed."

⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at how tall he is, because I have rejected him. For the LORD does not look at things the way man does. For man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either."

⁹Then Jesse had Shammah pass by. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either."

¹⁰Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel. Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Is that all of the young men?"

Jesse said, "There still is the youngest, but he is tending the sheep."

Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him, for we cannot sit down to

eat until he comes.”

¹²He sent for him and brought him in. David had red hair and striking eyes, and was good-looking. The LORD said, “Get up! Anoint him, because this is the one.”

¹³So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers. The Spirit of the LORD rushed on David with power from that day forward. After that Samuel set out and returned to Ramah.

Psalm for the Day

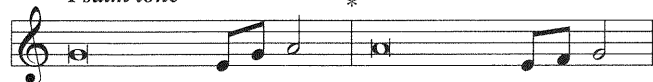
Psalm 8

Refrain



I will praise your name for - ev-er, my King and my God.

Psalm tone



O LORD, our LORD, how majestic is your name in |
all the earth; *

You have set your glory above the | heavens.

When I consider your | heavens, *
the work of your | fingers;

What is man that your are mind- | ful of him, *
the Son of Man that you | care for him?

Refrain

You made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings, *
and crowned him with glory and | honor.

You made him ruler over the works | of your hands; *
you put everything un- | der his feet.

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.

Refrain

Epistle

Titus 3:4-7

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, ⁵he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life.

Verse of the Day

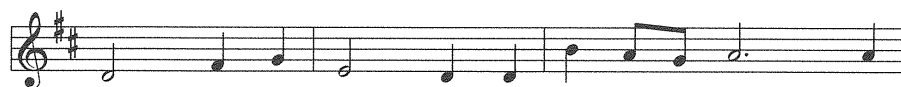
Romans 6:1-4

P: What shall we say then? Shall we keep on sinning so that grace may increase? Absolutely not! We died to sin. How can we go on living in it any longer? Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him by this baptism into his death, so that just as he was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too would also walk in a new life.

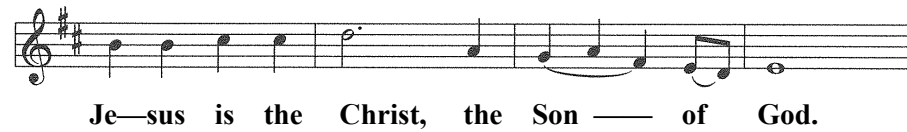
Alleluia!



C: Al— le— lu— ia! Al— le— lu— ia! Al— le— lu— ia!



These words are writ — ten that we may be—lieve that



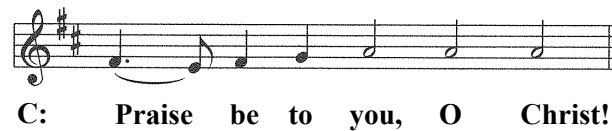
The Gospel

Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John could be the Christ. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

²¹When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. While he was praying, heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you.”

P: This is the Word and promise of our God!



Hymn of the Day

“To Jordan’s River Came Christ”
Christian Worship 89

Sermon

Titus 3:4-7

Theme: **“Baptism Means Everything!”**
 Because of God’s kindness and love
 Because of our rebirth and renewal
 Because of Jesus Christ, our Savior

The Apostles Creed *(the congregation will rise)*

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty;**

From there 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!**

Thanksgiving to the Lord

Prayer for the Lord's Blessing

The Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen!**

Hymn

“Christ, Your Footprints Through the Desert”

Christian Worship: Supplement 709

It is printed on pages 17-18 of the service folder

Closing Prayer

P: O dearest Jesus, when the time was right you came to this earth to be our Savior. Then, when the time was right you were revealed as that Savior. Through signs, wonders and the words of your Father’s faithful testimony, you were proclaimed to be the one who was promised. We thank you for coming to secure the righteousness we lacked. We thank you for the gift of Baptism and the forgiveness of our sins. We thank you that through this gracious washing with water you have adopted us into your family and made us heirs of heaven. Keep us in your care throughout this earthly life. Then bring us to our home in heaven. There we will be in your presence to praise you—together with your Father and the Spirit—throughout all eternity.



C: A - - men!

The Benediction:

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



C: A — men. A — men. A — men.

Closing Hymn

“Almighty Father, Bless the Word”
Christian Worship 323

Silent Prayer

Announcements . . .

Today - *Welcome in our Savior’s name!* May the Baptism of our Savior together with his unsurpassed faithfulness remind us daily of the gift of our own Baptism. If you are visiting this morning, please sign the guest book. We also invite you to worship again, soon!

- After the service there will be coffee served and an opportunity for fellowship. Come and enjoy!
- Bible Study will follow the service. We will complete last Sunday’s lesson on the Magnificat, and review the events of Jesus’ baptism.

Tuesday—Outreach Committee meeting at 7:00 pm. Plans will be solidified for 2022. Everyone is welcome to come!

Wednesday—Bible Class at 7:00 pm. This evening a new topic will begin. It is a study prepared by our Synod regarding the Call into the pastoral ministry, as well as some practical aspects regarding how a congregation calls a pastor.

Friday—Office Hours from 10:30—2:30 pm.

Saturday—Clean—Pettus

- Taking down Christmas decorations beginning 1:00 pm
- Lawn beginning January 9th—J. Brown

Sunday, January 16th—Worship and Live-streaming at 9:30 am. The season of Epiphany reveals the great power of our Savior as true God and true Man. Paul reminds the Christians in Ephesus, as well as the whole Christian Church how great that power is: “our Lord can do infinitely more than we can ask or

imagine.”

- Following the worship service we will have our Annual Congregational Meeting. Not only will we review the blessings of 2021, we will consider the ministry and budget plan for 2022. Make sure you come and participate in determining our service to the Lord.

Thank you . . .

To Al Todd, our musician and Hymnsoft operator; to Jim Brown and Josh Schueler for controlling the audio and video of the live stream; to Sue Proeber for placing flowers on the altar—to the glory of God and in grateful praise for the gift of a Savior.

Acknowledgements

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