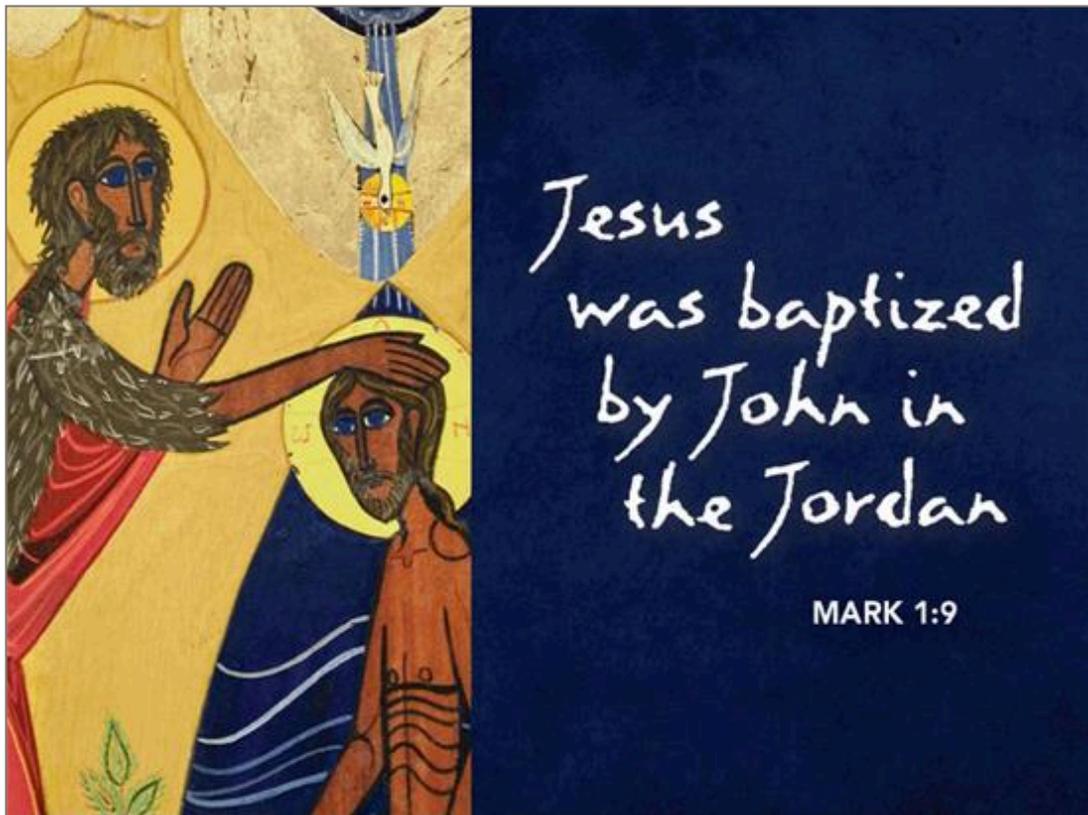




Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 2021

9:30 am



Bethel Lutheran Church
1009 18th Avenue SW
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-761-1543

Email: bethelgf.church@gmail.com
Website: www.bethelmt.org

Rev. Trina Johnsten

A congregation of the Montana Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

INTRODUCTION

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

ELW 396

Spirit of Gentleness (1,2&4)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.

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.**

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE

- 1. Have mercy on us Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.*
- 2. Have mercy on us Christ, and wash away our sin. Pour out
your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.*
- 3. Have mercy on us Lord; make sin and shame depart. Renew
us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!*

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

- 1. Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.*
- 3. Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:*

*Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

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

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

**The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
**the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the Lord
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

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!"

**The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

O Lord, give strength to your people;
give them, O Lord, the blessings 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.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The holy gospel according to Mark the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: MARK 1:4-13

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.

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." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Trina Johnsten

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 723

Canticle of the Turning (vs 1,2&4)

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Lord in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.***

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

We are so very blessed with the continued support of this congregation during this time of physical distancing and online worship. We are thankful that you are joining us from home and are encouraged to mail in your pledge to the church, to give on-line, or to give through an arrangement you can set up through your bank. Thank you for your faithful support.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God,
**you have created all that is,
and you provide for us in every season.
Bless all that we offer,
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.
Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 453 Baptized and Set Free

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

SERVING TODAY

Accompanist	Mary Seim, Piano; Pastor Steve Nelson, guitar
Lead Vocals	Dave and Tamy Scholten
Lay Assistant	John Blank
Tech	Colter McCarty and Adam Elkin
Counters	Patty Braget and Donna Vinnedge

Flowers are given by John and Terry Korpela in memory of Terry's dad, Donald Eriksen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today at Bethel we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord Sunday.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 1/12

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast, via Zoom 7:00 am
- Bethel Church Council meeting via Zoom 6:30 pm.

Wednesday 1/13

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 10:00 am

Thursday 1/14

- Hope Circle Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm

Friday 1/15

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 1/17

- Budget meeting after worship location TBD

Tuesday 1/19

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast, via Zoom 7:00 am.

Wednesday 1/20

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 10:00 am

Thursday 1/21

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm

Friday 1/22

- Bethel office is closed.

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