

The Baptism of Our Lord

Holy Communion



Jesus was
baptized
by John in
the Jordan

MARK 1:9

JANUARY 7, 2024 ~ 10:00 am

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAGERSTOWN, MD

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
601 Washington Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740
Pastor Brian McClinton, Senior Pastor
Telephone: 301-733-7550 Website: stmarkslc.com

+ *Congregation please stand if able*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE - Benediction

June Nixon

+ **CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

+ **GATHERING HYMN - "Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"**

ELW 520

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Dearest Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you
as the promises here given
draw us wholly up to heaven. | 3 Radiance of God's glory bright,
Light of light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light;
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
that our prayers and songs may
please you,
as with grateful hearts we praise you. |
| 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks the night,
filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
come but by your gracious giving. | 4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
praise to you and adoration!
Grant us what we need the most:
all your gospel's consolation
while we here on earth await you,
till in heav'n with praise we greet you. |

+ **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**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

+ **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

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the 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. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God 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



- ¹Ascribe to the **LORD**, you gods,
ascribe to the **LORD** glo-ry and strength.
- ²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;**
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- ³The voice of the **LORD** is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the **LORD** is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;**
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- ⁵The voice of the **LORD** breaks the cedar trees;
the **LORD** breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,**
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- ⁷The voice of the **LORD**
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- ⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;**
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁹The 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!”
- ¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;**
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.
- ¹¹O **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.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He 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." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul 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." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—
⁷altogether there were about twelve of them. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



+ GOSPEL - Mark 1:4-11

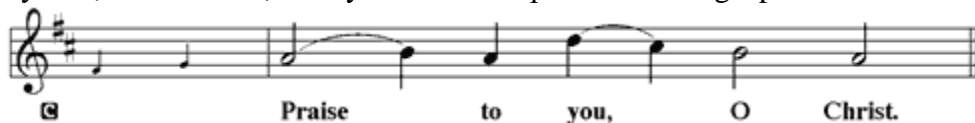
Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1st chapter.



⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." The gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

Pastor Brian

+ HYMN OF THE DAY - "Shall We Gather at the River"

ELW 423

1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

3 Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

Refrain

4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. *Refrain*

2 On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. *Refrain*

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to publicly affirm our baptism into Christ. Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

We renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

AFFIRMATION

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?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

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

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

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. **Amen.**

+ *SHARING OF THE PEACE*

OFFERING

MUSIC OFFERING - Shall We Gather at the River

Timothy Shaw

+ *OFFERTORY - "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"*

ELW 184

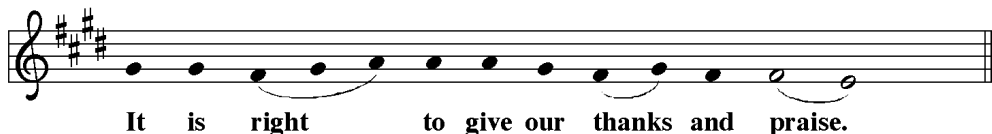
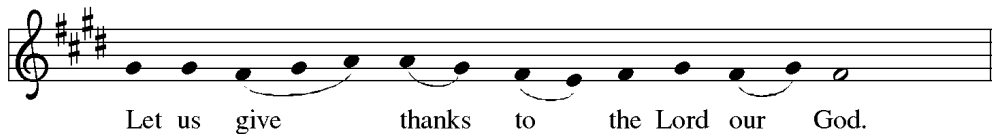
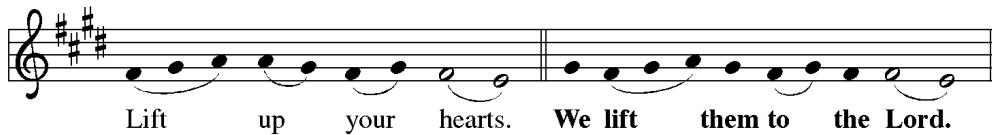
Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that
were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;

unite them with the prayers we offer
now.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to
come.

+*OFFERING PRAYER*

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

+*GREAT THANKSGIVING*



+*PREFACE*

It is indeed right, our duty ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

+ *SANCTUS*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

+ *THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE*

+ *THE LORD'S PRAYER*

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.

+ *INVITATION TO COMMUNION*

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see.

+ **LAMB OF GOD**



+ **CLOSING HYMN - “God, Whose Almighty Word”**

ELW 673

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light. | 3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light. |
| 2 Christ, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
oh, now to humankind
let there be light. | 4 Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might:
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth, far and wide,
let there be light. |

+ **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

You may be seated during the postlude

POSTLUDE - O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Michael Burkhardt