

Sunday, January 10, 2021 – Baptism of Our Lord

Trinity's Weekly Connection

You are welcome to join us for live streaming of our "Virtual Worship" service from Centennial Hall on the Baptism of Our Lord, January 10 at 9:15 a.m. If you are unable to join us at that time, be welcome to access the service at your convenience via Trinity's YouTube channel. Instructions for access to the live stream and the recorded video are below.

Trinity is live streaming worship – how do I find it?

We are streaming our 9:15 a.m. "Virtual Worship" service on YouTube. To find it, do the following:

- Follow the home page link to "Virtual Worship" on Trinity's website, select "video" and you will be connected to the stream.
OR
- Go to YouTube, either by opening the app on your phone or by visiting the webpage on your computer.
- Search for 'Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids.' The first option should be one with a picture of our cross tower (that is our channel).
- When you click on it you will be brought to our channel. If the service is live (from about 9:10 to 10:20 a.m. on Sunday morning) there will be a video with 'Live Now' on it.
- Simply click on the video and you will be connected to the stream.
- We also save past services in a play list called 'Rejoice Worship,' so you can view a past worship service at any time. It takes a couple of hours for the video to download on YouTube after worship ends.

If you have a YouTube account please subscribe to the channel. This will allow our videos to show up in your video feed and when we reach enough subscriptions allow us to change our YouTube url.

Prayer of the Day for the Baptism of Our Lord

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.

Prayer for Health Care Providers

Merciful God, your healing power is everywhere about us. Strengthen those who work among the sick; give them courage and confidence in all they do. Encourage them when their efforts seem futile or when death prevails. Increase their trust in your power even to overcome death and pain and crying. May they be thankful for every sign of health you give, and humble before the mystery of your healing grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Trinity Members in Our Prayers

We pray for Trinity members George Bauer, Janelle Beaudry, Loretta Blied, Jim and Sue Boyse and family, Bonnie Brandstadt and family, Pat Bruin, Janet Chobanian, Barb and Bob Crossman and family, John Derbin, Awilda Diaz, Scott Dukecki and family, Beth Engstrom, Joe Fisher, Renee Fisk and family, Mari Franz and family, Mary Frick, Richard Gehl and family, Jack Greiner, Elena Griewahn, Adam Guigue, Craig Gunderson, Carol Welz-Gustafson, Mark Hahn, John Hall, Bob and Linda Heine and family, Ruth Helzer, Jerry Hendricks, Bev Heyne and family, Sid and Carrie Hoeksema and family, Callan Hughes, Carol Huttenga, Austin, Meredith and Theodore Johnson, Christopher Keller, Susan Knoll, Jen Knowles, Joni Korb, Chris and Joanna Kutchinski, Roy Lamprich, Allison Landon, Logan Landon, Marilyn Leese, Jane Leguault, Judy Mallen, Roger Marks, Brian Mazurek and family, Marcia McClimans and family, Jill McKinney, Marilyn Mellema, Richard Mencarelli, Johnny Mielock, John and Karin Moglia and family, Michael Mulligan, Tim Neilson, Maddie Nojos, Joan Perham and family, Valeriano Ramirez and family, Jacqueline Riegling, Mark and Gayle Rohde and family, Lynn Rose, Thiago Saline, Marian Schaible, Chas Schaner, Chris Schomberg, Ilene Seadal, Joan Sellman, Jim Searfoss, Neil and Sue Sendler and family, Kris Shannon and family, Michael Smith, David and Mary Smoes and family, Courtney Stekete and family, Linda Taffs, Shirley Tedford, Jeremiah (JD) Thamban, Chris and Joanna Waite and family, Fred Wilcox, John Walls, Eric Wollen, Peyton Wollen, Rick and Michelle Wolner, Susan Youngren, and Kathryn Zielinski.

Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 2021

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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."



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

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

Have mercy, O God.

For those who share in our ministry, including Pastor Tom Orth and the people of Grace Lutheran Church in Alpena, synod partners with us in mission and ministry, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For our three "Standing Together" partner congregations here in Grand Rapids, Masjid At-Tawheed, Westminster Presbyterian Church and Temple Emanuel, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

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.

Have mercy, O God.

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.

Have mercy, O God.

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, including those we name now in our hearts (*a brief silence*), that God shower compassion, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

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.

Have mercy, O God.

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

Have mercy, O God.

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.



Prayer for this time of pandemic and social upheaval

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for our Nation in a Time of Transition

Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In this time of transition in our nation, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation with your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

JANUARY 10, 2021
BAPTISM OF
OUR LORD



Jesus is God's beloved, and so are we.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 1:4-11	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Genesis 1:1-5	God creates light
Tuesday	Acts 19:1-7	Paul baptizes in Ephesus
Wednesday	Mark 15:33-39	Death of Jesus
Thursday	Ephesians 4:1-6	Unity in the body of Christ
Friday	Galatians 3:19-29	The purpose of the law
Saturday	Psalms 29	The voice of God in the storm
Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." **Mark 1:11 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for Jesus, your Beloved Son and our Savior and for claiming us in baptism as your loved children now and always. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of tender care, as we are given strength from this meal, may we remember with joy that we are your beloved children through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you strength and bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:11)



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JANUARY 10, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
You are Mine



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is a dramatic event you have witnessed or heard about?
- Have you experienced a baptism as a life-changing event? Explain.
- How was Jesus' baptism a life-changing event for the world?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 1:4-11.

Jesus' baptism is marked by dramatic events. Not only did Jesus go out to John in the wilderness, but so did "all the people of Jerusalem" (v. 5). John, who has a strong following acknowledges that Jesus, the one to come after John, is so much more important, that John is not worthy to untie Jesus' sandals. Jesus' own baptizing will bring with it the Holy Spirit, not just the call to repentance, as was the baptism of John. The Holy Spirit will make Jesus' baptism and the Christian baptism different (see Acts 19:1-7). Then, the most dramatic moment happens, the moment that defines Jesus' baptism as a cosmic shattering event: the heavens were torn apart and the Spirit of God came down, appearing like a dove. The tearing apart of the heavens will be matched by the tearing apart of the curtain in the temple at the time of Jesus death (Mark 15:38). Jesus' baptism is linked with the cosmic shattering event of his death that changes for all time our relationship to God. This is something that we participate in through our own baptisms, another earth-shattering experience filled with love that claims us as God's beloved children. Is being claimed by God in baptism earth shattering to you? Why or why not?

Pray: **God of glory and might, help us to see and believe in your earth-shattering power and love for us and to see that love embrace us in the remembrance of our baptisms. Amen.**

SERVICE

The baptism of Jesus took place using water. Water is essential to life. It is important that rivers, lakes, and oceans stay clean but they can get and have been contaminated by people's actions. What are some things we can do to help keep our waters clean and free of pollution?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The "Baptism of our Lord Sunday" is a time to recall our own baptisms. This week in your home, light a candle, perhaps your own baptismal candle. Dip your fingers into a bowl of water and mark the sign of the cross on your forehead or the foreheads of one another. As you mark the sign of the cross, give this blessing:

Say: **You are God's beloved child.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org