



**January 10, AD 2021**  
**Baptism of Our Lord**  
**8:15am/10:30am**

Saint Paul Lutheran Church  
250 Trinity Road  
York, PA 17408  
[www.saintpaultrinity.org](http://www.saintpaultrinity.org)

(P=Pastor, AM=Assisting Minister, C=Congregation, \*=please stand) (The order of service and several hymns are found in the green book –LBW, purple-W&P or in the blue book-WOV. Please silence all electronic devices as we give our attention to God's presence in this holy place.)

Gathering Music: (8:15am) How Fair and Pleasant Art Thou – Dupre;  
When Jesus Came to Jordan – Biery

(10:30am) Baptized in Water—arr. Martin; When Jesus Came to Jordan –Biery

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer Concerns  
MIVO Temple Talk: Lawrence Smyser

Prelude: My Son, the Beloved – Blackwell (Joyce Hall, soprano)

*(During the prelude, you may wish to reflect on the following prayer: Gracious Lord as your only begotten Son was baptized in the Jordan River to inaugurate His saving earthly ministry among His people, so do we rejoice in our Baptisms as a mark of our eternal forgiveness and membership into your Church. Cause us daily to die to sin and rise to newness of life, that living in the covenant of our baptisms we may lead godly lives until your Son's return in all his glory. Amen.)*

\*Invocation, Confession and Forgiveness

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

**C: Amen.**

P: In Holy Baptism, each of us was baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In Baptism, we were united with Christ. Yet, we have often lived as if we were entirely independent and autonomous. We have lived as if our identity were not in Jesus, but in our own selfish desires. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to turn back to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

*(Please kneel or stand and observe a moment of silence for reflection.)*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**C: we confess that we are by nature sinful and have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. On account of Jesus, forgive us, renew us, and unite us to Your name.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. In Baptism, you were united to Christ in both His death and resurrection. You were buried with Him, but also raised to walk in newness of life. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen. We are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

\*Opening Hymn:

652

## Arise, Your Light Has Come!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Arise, Your Light Has Come!'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun-tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947  
Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893  
Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

FESTAL SONG  
S M

### \*Apostolic Greeting §

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

**C: And also with you.**

### Opening Dialogue: A Litany for Baptism

P: Called to the water of life in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, you might ask "What is Baptism?"

**C: Baptism is not merely water; it is water used according to God's command and connected with God's Word.**

P: What is this Word of God?

**C: This Word is the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in the last chapter of Matthew: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)**

P: Is there a promise that comes to us in Baptism?

**C: There are gifts or benefits that Baptism brings. It brings about forgiveness of sins, delivers us from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe, as the Word and promise of God declare.**

P: What is this Word and promise of God?

**C: This Word and promise of our Lord Jesus Christ is recorded in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)**

P: What are the Means of Baptism? How can water do such great things?

**C: It is not the water that does these things, but the Word of God connected with the water and our faith which relies on that Word. For without the Word of God it is simply water and not Baptism.**

P: What happens when water is connected with God’s Word?

**C: When connected with the Word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit. As Saint Paul says to Titus: “He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy.” (Titus 3:5-8a)**

P: What is the daily purpose of Baptism? What does it signify?

**C: Baptism signifies that the old Adam in us, together with all sins and evil desires, should be drowned by daily repentance and sorrow for sin, and be put to death, and that the new person should come forth every day and rise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

P: And where is this written?

**C: It is written in Romans: “We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4)**

\* Prayer of the Day +

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray...

P: Heavenly Father, in Jesus’ baptism you declared him to be your beloved Son and set him apart as your agent of grace for your creation. May we who are baptized into his life also be sent as agents of grace in your world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## First Lesson: **Genesis 1:1-5**

(Before God began his creative action of fashioning all that exists out of nothing, the Spirit of the Lord hovered over the waters. The first thing that the Lord God made was light to scatter the darkness. The light was good, according to the Creator, and thus the first day was completed.)

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: **29 (read responsively)**

(The psalmist described the voice of the Lord as it hovered over the waters. The Lord's voice is one that thunders; it is powerful and majestic at the same time. It breaks down and it builds up; it creates and it blesses. He is worthy of praise!)

L:<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**C:<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

L:<sup>3</sup>The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

**C:<sup>4</sup>The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

L:<sup>5</sup>The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**C:<sup>6</sup>He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

L:<sup>7</sup>The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**C:<sup>8</sup>The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.**

L:<sup>9</sup>And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

**C:<sup>10</sup>The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as King forevermore.**

L:<sup>11</sup>The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

## Second Lesson: **Romans 6:1-11**

(Paul asked the rhetorical question, "Are we to continue in sin so that God can shower us with his abundant grace?" The answer was an emphatic, "Heavens, no!" We who have died to sin can no longer live in sin. Our old selves have been put to death through Christ's death, and we have been raised to new life by his resurrection.)

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who

have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Children's Sermon: Pastor Sally**

\*Alleluia Verse spoken

**C: Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

\*Gospel Announcement

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint **Mark, the 1st chapter.**

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: **Mark 1:4-11**

(The Evangelist recalled the ministry of John's baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John proclaimed that one would come after him who was greater than him, and he would baptize with the Holy Spirit. As Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River, the Spirit descended upon him and a voice from heaven proclaimed his sonship. "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.")

<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." <sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: Pastor Paul

\*The Votum

\*Hymn of the Day:

647

# When Jesus Came to Jordan

1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John,  
2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,  
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;

he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.  
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.  
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond - age break.

He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,  
So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,  
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:

to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.  
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.  
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, b. 1903

Music: English folk tune, adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

Text © 1980 Hope Publishing Co.

Music © 1906 Oxford University Press

KING'S LYNN  
7 6 7 6 D

alternate tune: AURELIA

\*The Apostles' Creed

**All:**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

\*The Prayers of the Church

**C: Amen**

\*Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.** (We share the peace with one another from our spots.)

Offertory: (8:15) Baptized in Water –arr. Martin

(10:30) Wade in the Water –arr. Marohnic

\*Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise**

\*The Proper Preface §

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for at His Baptism Your voice from heaven revealed Him as Your beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him, confirming Him to be the Christ. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

\*The Sanctus (spoken):

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna, in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

\*Eucharistic Prayer §

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, our God, for You have delivered us from the power of sin, death, and the devil, and have kept us for Your kingdom, which is forever. Grant that we with true thanksgiving receive the bread and wine, that is, the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as a guarantee of the salvation He purchased for us through His innocent suffering and death. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, that we live as Your baptized and faithful servants. Receive our prayers and thanksgivings and grant us Your abiding peace. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

\*The Words of Institution

\*The Lord's Prayer

\*P: Lord remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray...

**All: 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.**

**Agnus Dei (sung)**



**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;**



**grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Distribution of Holy Communion (Carol plays special music)

\*Blessing

\*Post Communion Canticle: (sung)



**☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.**



**Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.**



**He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy**



**with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.**

\*Post Communion Prayer: §

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have revealed to us Your beloved Son, Jesus. We implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through His body and blood and empower us to live as Your children; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

\*Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\*Recessional Hymn:

651

# Shine, Jesus, Shine

*Refrain*  
A E/A D A Bm B7 E



Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;



A E/A D A Bm G E



blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.



A E/A D A Bm B7 E



Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with love and mer - cy;



A E/A D A Bm E7 A D To stanzas  
E/A D End  
A



send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!



A D A E/A A D

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the  
 2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -

A E/A D E<sup>7</sup> C<sup>#m</sup> F<sup>#m</sup>

dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,  
 play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,

D E<sup>7</sup> C<sup>#m</sup> F<sup>#m</sup> G

set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on  
 mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry. Shine on

Esus<sup>4</sup> E G Esus<sup>4</sup> E Refrain

me, shine on me:  
 me, shine on me:

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry –Leavitt

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**WELCOME!** Thank you for joining us for worship!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, Saint Paul Lutheran Church is committed to praising, praying, and proclaiming the Word of God.** All baptized Christians who have received their first communion are invited to join us for Holy Communion believing as we do that Christ is truly present in this holy meal. Please follow the usher's instruction for when to leave your pew. Receive the wafer with open hands and then take a communion glass from the tray. If you have trouble coming forward, **please inform the usher and communion will be brought to your pew.** Please join us again

**SPONSORSHIPS to the Glory of God: ALTAR FLOWERS** in loving memory of Irene Altenburg by Barb & Dean Eisenhart and in loving memory of Anna Mary Eisenhart by the Family **BULLETIN** in honor of our children and grandchildren by Denny & Deb Shue **BREAD & WINE** celebrating the Baptism of Our Lord by the Hax family **MAILING:** in memory of Delores, by Carl Smyser **PARISH MESSENGER:** to the glory of God. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Jeremiah 29:11 and in honor of Joshua, Erica, Noah, Caleb, Benjamin, Ethan, Ashley, Skylar, Charlie, Linda, Devin, Rebecca, Barry, Sylvia, Corby, Candace, Chase, and Colton by Ed & Connie Dunklebarger **SANCTUARY LAMP:** in memory of Delores, by Carl Smyser

**Thought of the day:** At the Baptism of Jesus a new era began for God's people. Through the waters of Baptism, new life is granted. We who are washed in the waters are drowned to our old selves and raised to new life in Him. This is one of the few places in Scripture where we see the entirety of the Trinity revealed simultaneously: the Father speaks, the Son is baptized, and the Spirit appears as a dove.

**We Congratulate Melinda Grube** who will take over the CCYC Interim Director position.

**Lord's Helpers: 8:15**

**Head Usher:** Al Dickensheets

**Lay Reader:** Sue Dickensheets

**Sound:** Neil & Elliot Metzger

**Acolyte:** Jacob Smyser

**Greeter:** Doug Eash

**Altar Guild:** Diane Workman

**Lord's Helpers: 10:30**

**Head Usher:** Fred Hostetler

**Lay Reader:** Cindy Roth

**Sound:** Sam Krebs

**Greeters:** Gerry & Cindy Roth

**Altar Guild:** Cindy Roth

**SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**250 Trinity Road York, PA 17408 792-1650**

PASTORS Rev. Sara "Sally" Gausmann e-mail: [pastorsally@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:pastorsally@saintpaultrinity.org)

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PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

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OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-2:00pm

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Carol Moscony -[musicdirector@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:musicdirector@saintpaultrinity.org)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Carol Frey -[financialsecretary@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:financialsecretary@saintpaultrinity.org)

MINI SEXTON: Jack Hall -[minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org)

Missionaries: Andy Stump in Haiti, Luke & Ruth in the Philippines

**\*Don't forget~ you can access the newsletter and other announcements on our website!**

**Activities for the week of January 10, 2021**

Sun.	1/10	Baptism of Our Lord 8:15am Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30am Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion
Mon.	1/11	6:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting
Tues.	1/12	7:00pm Church Council Meeting 7:00pm Hilltop AA
Wed.	1/13	7:00pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting
Thurs.	1/14	9:00am Outreach Committee Meeting 10:00am Bible Study at Church and on Zoom 7:00pm Bible Study on Zoom
Fri.	1/15	7:00pm Hilltop AA
Sun.	1/17	Second Sunday after the Epiphany 8:15am Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30am Annual Congregational Meeting 10:30am Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion

**Third Thursday –  
Bible Study, bag lunch, Bingo and book club!**

**Friends in Christ (our group for widows, widowers and friends)** is doing Bingo instead of an outing while Covid wraps up. On January 21. we will meet at 11:15 (right after Bible study). We will be meeting in Fellowship Hall, wear our masks, and have plenty of room for social distancing. We will use paper bingo papers and stamps. Small prizes will be given out. Bring a bag lunch and if you want you can even stay for book club which meets at 1:30. Hopefully, Covid will end soon and we can go back to some of our fun outings, but in the meantime, we can have fun together in our nice big building! Pass the word around.

**OUR DAILY BREAD**

Our dessert for January is **spice cupcakes with white frosting**. We need 30 dozen by 9 am on Friday, Jan. 21st. If you can contribute, please call the church office. Thank you!

**SPECIAL APPEAL FOR January MIVO Foundation**

MIVO'S mission, which is: *“to serve the people of Haiti by offering treatment options for Orthopedic problems. Consistent with a Christian faith, we believe these problems are physical, emotional, and spiritual illnesses. Through Christ-centered care, we integrate these aspects of life to enhance a path to recovery, offering hope from a biblical perspective.”* This service is best exemplified through real life fact and example. With each passing year, the MIVO Foundation expands our reach as God expands our impact. We have been able to perform critically needed surgeries such as re-alignment & fixation of broken bones as well as removal of infected hardware in patients' limbs, thus offering hope of returning to independent, productive lifestyles. By partnering with MIVO, you are truly helping to open the doors of possibility for future patients. Your gift is a tangible investment, which will enable us to maintain the clinic's operation year-round as well as help us to prepare for the expansions which God has sent before us. Thank you, too, for your prayers as MIVO strives to reach more and more people for Christ here in the United States and in Haiti.

**There is a scheduled MIVO medical mission trip coming up January 15th-22nd.**

Lori Smyser and Deb Shue (RN's) are again taking their nursing skills to the people of Haiti and we're requesting the prayers and support of our St Paul brothers and sisters in Christ.

**We have identified a number of "urgent needs" items** that we could use during the care and treatment of the clients. Suggested items needed include: hand sanitizer, dressing supplies (4x4's), ace wraps (any size), Tylenol, Ibuprofen, masks (disposable), Band-Aids, BP cuffs (non-battery operated), money (to purchase needed supplies).

Please place any item in the suitcase located in the library area. **Today** is the last day to donate items.

## Women of the Word

Women of the Word will not be meeting in January due to the rise in Covid 19. We invite all ladies to join us in our time of study and fellowship once we start meeting again.

**The Men's group is not meeting in January.** We will resume meetings when the community spread of COVID 19 starts to decline.

**Book Club** will resume in. We Will discuss Dearly Beloved by Kara Wall. Please join us Thursday, January 21, at 1:30 in the library area of Saint Paul for an interesting discussion of this book about two pastors, their wives, ministry, and friendship.

## Bible Study for January

One of the enriching features of church life is our common desire to delve further into the Holy Scriptures. This spring we will be looking at the books of First and Second Peter. God's word has great inspiration for our times of suffering and reminds us always to be compassionate to others in their times of need. There is great encouragement in these books to maintain faithfulness in the face of temptations and to look for Christ's coming again. So join us in person or by Zoom on Thursdays, the morning session is held here at the church in the Parlor at 10AM (Zoom is also available), the evening Zoom session is held at 7PM, the invitation to which will be included in the Wednesday and Thursday daily devotion e-mail for that week. The Bible Sessions will be held on **January 14, 21 and 28.**



**Saint Paul will hold its annual meeting** at approximately 9:30am on **Sunday, January 17th** in the Sanctuary with a Zoom Option for both attending and voting. **Remember, our constitution requires us to hold an annual meeting and we need your attendance to make quorum. without which no business can be conducted, so please plan to attend. We will also be voting on the church budget at this meeting.** The annual reports are available in the narthex.

## Youth and Family Committee is hosting a Virtual Game Time!

**On January 31 from 3:30 -5:00** we are going to have our first ever Zoom Game gathering. We'll send out the link ahead of time and the supplies you will need (like some bingo sheets) and then you'll get on the zoom and we'll give it a whirl. Let us know if you want to be a part of the fun by January 18 and then we'll get you the supplies you'll need – there may even be some prizes at the end! More game times to come and hopefully by February they can be in person!

# ***Listening for the Promise***

## **Weekly Devotional**

### **Baptism of our Lord - January 10, 2021**

*“And a voice came from heaven ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’” - Mark 1:11*

#### **Beloved**

Have you ever wondered WHY Jesus would need to be baptized? I mean, after all, he WAS Jesus. He had no sins to be forgiven, and he certainly didn't need the promise of eternal life. He already had that, right?

When Jesus was baptized, he came to identify with the sins of the people, even though he himself was free from sin (2 Corinthians 5:10). As soon as he does this, he was proclaimed as God's beloved. He hadn't taken on the role of Messiah yet, and I wonder if before he could do this, God had to give him his name. Not healer, or prophet, or even Messiah, but the name BELOVED. This is how God sees him, he is God's beloved. He was given a name, not according to what he had already done, but according to his relationship with his Father in heaven. And before anyone had a chance to question or challenge his identity, the Holy Spirit drives him into the wilderness for the test of a lifetime.

The test which Jesus would have to endure was a test that would challenge his very identity. The truth of who you and I are is always measured by our ability to cling to our identity in Christ, especially in moments of temptation. This identity is pronounced at our baptism and sealed irrevocably by the Holy Spirit. You see, in baptism, we are a new creation. We are BELOVED. Just as Jesus was God's beloved, so too are we! We are changed forever in the waters of Holy Baptism. The waters that Jesus waded into first, even though he was sinless, is the water that washes and claims us in the name of and by the power of the Triune God.

So, if you ever wonder how Jesus got through forty days of intense testing in the wilderness, just remember: He was God's beloved. For us it is the same. At our baptism, we are called God's beloved – Child of God. This is the beginning of our life in Christ and we are named Beloved, lest we forget who we are and whose we are. Amen.

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## Sermon Notes for The Baptism of Our Lord

Baptism makes a difference it really does. Consider the Baptism that Alfred sponsored in 9<sup>th</sup> century England:

- a large baptismal party consisting of adults
- this baptism was celebrated with a lavish party that went on for days
- who would have suspected such a reality celebration would even be possible  
but the reconciliation it initiated led to so many more positives
- these positives changed the course of our history too, of who we are as a people

So...Baptism makes a difference it really does

This Sunday, the Baptism of our Lord Sunday allows us to consider and reflect upon the overall significance of baptism and its personal significance for each of us, it is for baptism what Maundy Thursday is to Holy Communion.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we see that John the Baptist questioned the need for Jesus' Baptism: "saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and you come to me?" But Jesus replied, "it is fitting to fulfill all righteousness."

Jesus did many things that he technically did not have to do throughout the course of his ministry and His baptism marks the beginning of course of that ministry, but Jesus joins in solidarity with His people, he takes on our flesh albeit living without sin.

Many in leadership lord their authority over others, relish the power it gives and seek to be the exception to the rule when it comes to bearing the suffering, they ask others to endure

But Jesus walks the path of suffering he starts his earthly ministry in the wilderness, he endures the vigor of the outdoor life often on his journeys, he suffers fully both mentally and physically on the cross, he is the Good Shepherd who sacrifices his very life for His sheep, he understands the depths of our sorrow as one who has borne and so much more

Baptism makes all the difference it really does:

In the waters of Holy Baptism, Jesus' commission to save us is activated and affirmed by the Holy Spirit and by God the Father, the day of new creation has begun, so too in Holy Baptism are we joined to the life of Christ and sealed in the Triune name for that purpose, we drown to the old life and rise to new life.

Baptism has made all the difference for you and me, thanks be to God.



## **TAKING FAITH HOME – January 10, 2021 AD**

**These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.  
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.**

Sunday Mark 1:4-11 Jesus is baptized  
Monday Mark 9:2-8 Jesus is transfigured  
Tuesday Acts 9:1-19a Saul's conversion and baptism  
Wednesday Acts 22:2-16 Paul describes his baptism  
Thursday Job 26:7-14 Job speaks of creation  
Friday Job 38:1-18 The Lord speaks of creation  
Saturday Psalm 104 A psalm of creation  
Sunday John 1:43-51 Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**Genesis 1:1 (CEV)**

### **SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

God of creation, make us new. Amen.

#### **Mealttime Prayer:**

For all you've created, and give us to share, we thank you, O God. How great is your care! Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

Child of God, may the Lord give you his Spirit and make you sure of his love. Amen.  
(Mark 1:10-11)

### **CARING CONVERSATION:**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What do you know or remember about the day you were baptized?
- What happened when Jesus was baptized?
- What did God do for you when you were baptized?

## **DEVOTIONS:**

As part of your home devotional time this week, share a rite of baptismal remembrance. Gather a jug of water, an empty bowl, a larger center candle, and a smaller candle for each person. Pour the water into the bowl and say these words (a leader says the words in italics, all say the words in bold).

*For your gift of water:* **We thank you, Lord.**

*For the water of baptism:* **We thank you, Lord.**

Now light the center candle.

*For your gift of light, which warms and guides us:* **We thank you, Lord.**

*For the light of Christ:* **We thank you, Lord.**

*By being baptized, we were buried with Christ into his death. Christ has been raised from the dead by the Father's glory. And like Christ we also can live a new life.*

Each person now lights his or her candle from the center candle, as the leader says:

*In baptism, we were joined to the life of Christ. Let us shine for him.*

Household members may dip their fingers into the bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads, saying these words:

**You are a baptized child of God, who is well pleased with you.**

## **SERVICE:**

God calls us to help him in taking care of his creation. As an act of community service, take a few plastic bags and walk around your neighborhood picking up litter. (remember to wear gloves).

## **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:**

Go for a household nature walk. Take a digital camera or paper and pencils. When you return, make a poster using your pictures or drawings. Write the words of Genesis 1:1 in the center. Place the poster in a prominent place in your home.

**People and issues to pray for in your devotions this week:** We pray for those whose financial situation has deteriorated in the last year as they have been forced into poverty. We also pray for those mentioned today including \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**We are not having our regular Sunday School classes at this time.**

We will hopefully start back up in February. We will be monitoring the Covid situation and will respond as advised.