

# Love Your Neighbor

*Wear a mask, Wash your hands, Respect Space.*

## Divine Worship SMT Parish Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, January 10, 2021

### 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 Prelude

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
whose voice is upon the waters,  
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,  
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**Amen.**

### Apostolic Greeting *II Corinthians*

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

**And also with you.**

### 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.**

## Readings and Psalm

### 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.*

A reading from Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Then 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### Psalm: Psalm 29

***The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)***

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the | Lord, you gods,  
ascribe to the Lord glo- | ry and strength.

<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due God's name;  
worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

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

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the Lord is a pow- | erful voice;  
the voice of the Lord is a | voice of splendor. R**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the Lord breaks the | cedar trees;  
the Lord breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>**the Lord makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice | of the Lord  
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>**The voice of the Lord | shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. R**

<sup>9</sup>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!"

<sup>10</sup>**The Lord sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**



*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

**Glory to you O Lord!**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>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. <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 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. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ!**

## **Meditation -Pastor LeCroy**

### **Affirmation of Baptism**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of 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.**

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?

**I 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.**

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.**

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 us 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.**

## Hymn

### Baptized and Set Free



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.  
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.  
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,  
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.  
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.  
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.  
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door  
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:  
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:  
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.  
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.  
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.  
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956  
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner  
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## Prayers

### Remember in your prayers and with acts of kindness:

- The **Nilsen family** at the death of Ken's mother Dorothy.

- Dan Pickerel's father **Bill**, younger brother **Ben** recovering from Covid19 and his mother **Patricia** at the death of his Uncle Steve McCarthy.
- The friends of **Joe Protokowicz** (former sexton current resident and employee of the Shelter)
- The family and friends of **Thomas Sorensen** (former member)
- Humberto, the family, and friends of **Richard Brode**
- **Brian** and family (Courtney's friends)
- **Dena Calabrese** (friend of Irene Murray)
- **Carol and Donna** (friends of Leslie Neve)
- **Zoia "Charlie" Foster** (Pastor's niece)
- **John Weakland** (Brian Weakland's Father)
- **Dida Hagen and Chris Honda**(friend of Mindy Rostal recently diagnosed with cancer.)
- **Joanne Kraye**, (Joel's cousin).
- **Those in our community lost to Covid19 and the more than 1500 in Hudson County, 350,000 deaths in our country and those who suffer worldwide: Gilberto and Janet Diaz-Granados** (friends of pastor), **Francis Ng** (friend of Dan Stoll) **Charles Powers** (friend of the Meusel family), **Rosa Reyes** (funeral by our parish), **Richard Altomare** (friend of our neighborhood), **Barbara Wolfshorndl** (funeral by our parish), **Dawn Ennis** (sister-in-law of Pamella Pater-Ennis), **Arthur Jusu-Davies** (member) and **Florence Dombrowsky** (funeral by our parish).

On this Sunday of the baptism of our Lord, let us offer our prayers for all in need, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "Give us your blessings of peace."

*A brief silence.*

For the worldwide church; for those who minister in the church; for all who will be baptized this year; and for their godparents and sponsors: that the Holy Spirit will empower the faithful to renounce all that draws us from God and shape us for lives of service, justice, and peace, let us pray.

O God, give strength to your people.

**Give us your blessings of peace.**

For the waters of the earth; for the seas, the lakes, the rivers; for the wells that provide drinking water; and for the water that is piped into our homes: that God provide clean and nourishing water for all living things, let us pray.

O God, give strength to your people.

**Give us your blessings of peace.**

For the nations of the world and their leaders; for the United States in the midst of civil unrest and turmoil; for our elected leaders and their families; for police officers; for peacemakers; and for the health of relationships with other nations: that God fill us with courage and strength for these days, let us pray. O God, give strength to your people.

**Give us your blessings of peace.**

For our nation facing the evil of white supremacy; for those lured by hatred and violence; for all dealing with new and lasting trauma; for prophets who proclaim uncomfortable truths: that as your beloved creation, God inspire all people to work for the harmonious well-being of others.

O God, give strength to your people.

**Give us your blessings of peace.**

For students; for teachers and school administrators; for parents assisting their children in home schooling; and for young people who are finding a way toward graduation: that as the academic year resumes, God give resilience to everyone in the search for education, let us pray.

O God, give strength to your people.

**Give us your blessings of peace.**

For all who are in trouble, want, or sickness; for the countless who are suffering with COVID-19; for medical workers; for people who are hungry or homeless, imprisoned or lonely; and for those we name here. . . .: that God grant health and wholeness to a world so filled with pain, let us pray.

O God, give strength to your people.

**Give us your blessings of peace.**

For ourselves: that we rejoice in our adoption as members of God's family, and that now in this silence we bring to God our heart's requests, let us pray.

*A longer period of silence.*

O God, give strength to your people.

**Give us your blessings of peace.**

In gratitude for our beloved dead, especially . . . , we offer our praise for all the baptized who have accompanied us and supported us and taught us throughout our days; that at our end we join with them in everlasting joy, let us pray. O God, give strength to your people.

**Give us your blessings of peace.**

Almighty and most merciful God, you are the mighty Voice from heaven, you are our beloved Savior, you are the descending Dove. We give you thanks

for all your goodness and tender mercies, and we ask you to accept our prayers for the sake of your mercy, today and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6, Luke 11***

Lord remember us in your glory and make us bold 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.**

Or

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **Announcements**

- Offering
- Stewardship Video Devotions

### **Benediction**

God the creator strengthen you;  
Jesus the beloved fill you;  
and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.

**Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Love your neighbor as yourself.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Serving Today*

*The Rev. Gary C. LeCroy, D. Min. Pastor*

*Matthew Hummel, Guest Organist*

*Bernadette Oberndorf, Mark Singleton, Cantors*

*Leslie Neve, Lector & Usher*

**Upcoming Commemorations**

**Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710 (TFF)**

**Saturday, January 9, 2021**

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.

**Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968**

**Friday, January 15, 2021**

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

**Readings for the Week:**

- **Monday** Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36.
- **Tuesday** Acts 22:2-16.
- **Wednesday** Isaiah 41:14-20.
- **Thursday** Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18.
- **Friday**(commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr., renewer of society martyr, 1968) Acts 13:16-25.
- **Saturday** 1 Samuel 2:21-25.
- **Second Sunday after Epiphany:** (commemoration of Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, c. 356; Pachomius, renewer of the church, 346) 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51.

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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