

Order of Worship "Baptism of Jesus" – January 10, 2021

Prelude

Christians, We Have Met to Worship arr. John Purifoy

Welcome

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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.

On this day when we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the wellspring of hope and the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood. Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day (pray together)

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

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

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!

Praise to You, O Christ!

Message

Pastor Tess Panamarow

Contemplative Music

Shall We Gather At the River

arr. Greg Howlett

Prayers of Intercession (Congregation response is in **bold** print)

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

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 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 to bring equity and justice throughout all lands and among all people. We pray especially for our companion synod in Magulilwa, Tanzania and the China Service Ventures. May your saving and living word be proclaimed across the whole earth. 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 that God shower compassion, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the congregation gathered here, for those seeking renewal in their work, their life, and their Spirits--that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace. And Lord, as we get in the boat and push off from shore, we know you have great plans for us. We pray for courage to let go of what we need to so that we can face the future with confidence. Energize and revitalize us as your people. Grant us the gift of discernment that we may know and do your will. Be with us and strengthen us for the journey that lies ahead, trusting in your steadfast love to guide us. 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.

