

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
A Family Connecting in Christ

BAPTISM of the LORD



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WELCOME TO ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

At this time our services are for people wearing masks and social distancing!

Please know that even as we experience this awkwardness, your Good Shepherd holds you close to his heart and goes with you to share his love!

To Our Guests

- We pray that you receive a warm welcome and are blessed by the message of God's Word in our lessons and hymns. If you have questions, please ask!
- Our service is designed to focus us on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit does that by exposing our need for Christ and by showing us the wonders of God's grace in Christ – forgiveness and peace, help and hope for life in this world, and life forever with God in heaven.

Our Communion Practice

We practice close communion, the Biblical and ancient practice of the church.

We invite our congregation members and visitors from sister WELS or ELS congregations to join us, but ask Christians from other denominations to kindly respect our practice. Further explanation is in the pew racks or from our pastor.

We Care about Your Children

We love to have children with us in worship.

- If your children are crying loudly, our nursery, Gathering Area (back of church), and downstairs Fellowship Hall are audio-equipped for you and your young children. When your children are ready, come back so we can worship together.

We Care about Your Special Needs

- **Large Print** Service Folders are available from an usher.
- **Hearing Assistance** for those with hearing aids is provided through our Hearing Loop or personal hearing devices available at the "sound table."
- A **wheelchair lift** is available for your assistance; please ask an usher.



Our Facilities

Restrooms are in our Fellowship Hall, downstairs and to the right of the kitchen.

Our Ministry

St. John offers an excellent preschool-8th grade school program. We are members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) - www.wels.net.


GATHERING RITE ON HOLY BAPTISM

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we see Jesus set up for his mission and his purpose in this world. How? He is baptized! As we see Jesus baptized, we recall how God has set us up - for our mission, our purpose, our time in this world and forever - we are baptized into Christ!

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**



Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther,
I claim a place, though weak and low - ly, A - mong your



Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
saints, your cho - sen host, Bur - ied with Christ and dead to



sin. Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

M: I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

C: **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.** (*John 3:5,6*)

M: Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us. (*Psalms 51:5*)

C: **But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** (*1 Corinthians 6:11*)



My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me To be hence -
My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me The fruit of



forth your child and heir.
all your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it, com - fort



me When threat - 'ning clouds a - round I see.

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**



My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; Your pro - mise
Oh, cast me not a - way for - ev - er If words and



sure - ly will en - dure.
deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I come de -



filed; For - give, lift up, re - store your child.

- M: Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (Ephesians 5:25-27). Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: *(spoken)* Amen.

All that I am and love most dear - ly— Re - ceive it
 Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly, And help me
 all, O Lord, from me.
 your own child to be! Let noth - ing that I am or
 own Serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 1:4-10

The word of the Lord came to me, saying,
 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
 before you were born I set you apart;
 I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”
“Alas, Sovereign Lord ,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord.

Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:4-13

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN

"To Jordan's River Came Our Lord"

Hymn 89

To Jordan's river came our Lord,
The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,
The God from God, the Light from Light,
The Lord of glory, pow'r, and might.

The Savior came to be baptized—
The Son of God in flesh disguised—
To stand beneath the Father's will
And all His righteousness fulfill.

As Jesus in the Jordan stood
And John baptized the Lamb of God,
The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove,
Descended on Him from above.

Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound
Came God's own voice with words profound:
"This is My Son," was His decree,
"The one I love, who pleases Me."

The Father's word, the Spirit's flight
Anointed Christ in glorious sight
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall
To save the world and free us all.

Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;
This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

SERMON

Mark 1:4-13

"Why, God?" "What are you doing, God?" Ever been there? You lose your best friend - "Why, God?" You lose your job - "What are you doing, God?" You get word from the doctor, cancer - "Why, God?" Your child gets sick, so sick and you're so afraid - "What are you doing, God?" Ever been there? "Why, God?" "What are you doing, God?"

At those times, what goes on in here [head/heart]? We might be afraid. We might be angry. We might feel beaten and hopeless. We might cry or yell. We might curl up in a ball or go on a rampage. We might do all of those things. We might think God is against us, that he's punishing us. We might think God has left us. We might wonder: "What good is God? What good is God if he lets this happen?" We might think: "I'm all on my own."

"Why, God? What are you doing, God?" The devil loves those times, doesn't he? You might feel the devil is at work. You might even feel that the devil is right. You might feel like you're in a battle with the devil; you might feel like you're in a battle with God. But those "Why, God? What are you doing, God?" times aren't just the work of the devil, are they? It wasn't the devil who told Abraham to offer up his son, his only son, Isaac. It was God. It wasn't the devil who put Paul in harm's way as missionary to the Gentiles. It was God. And in our lesson, what do we hear? When Jesus was out in the wilderness for those forty days doing battle with Satan, it wasn't because Jesus took a

wrong turn or couldn't find his way out. Jesus was out there with the jackals and the snakes, he was out there with the devil because the Spirit of God led him out there.

Why? God had something he wanted to show Abraham and Isaac - he would provide. God had something he wanted to show Paul and his church - he would deliver. God had something he wanted to do through Jesus - he was going to put the devil in his place.

When God put Abraham through the grinder - "offer up your son" - God wasn't punishing Abraham. When God put Paul through the grinder - beaten, stoned, imprisoned - God wasn't punishing Paul; he didn't leave Paul to fend for himself. When God sent Jesus out into the grinder, out into the wilderness to do battle with Satan - God wasn't sending Jesus off on his own; he didn't leave Jesus to fend for himself. God had his angels there to attend to Jesus.

And Jesus had something more. I'm not talking about Jesus being God. I'm talking about Jesus having God. Before God sent Jesus into the wilderness to do battle with Satan ... before God sent Jesus out into the world ... God empowered Jesus. He empowered Jesus with his Spirit. He empowered Jesus with his promise. How? God had Jesus baptized. Mark doesn't tell us much about Jesus' baptism. But he does make these two points: 1) the Spirit of God landed on Jesus, God gave his Spirit to Jesus in a special way. And 2) God gave this promise to Jesus: "**You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well-pleased.**" When God put Jesus on the battlefield between good and evil, God didn't send Jesus into battle alone. God sent him powered with his Spirit. And when Jesus was being run through the grinder, Jesus didn't have to wonder where he stood with God. He had God's promise: "**You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well-pleased.**"

You have that same Spirit! You have that same promise! You don't have to wonder where you stand with God. You aren't alone and on your own. In your baptism, God gave you his Spirit. The same Spirit that God gave Jesus, God has given you to equip you and power you, to shield you and protect you. You aren't alone and on your own. Baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, God put his name on you. In baptism, God has given you his Spirit as his guarantee that he is with you and for you. In baptism, the Spirit has connected you with Jesus so that Jesus' life is your life, his death is your death, his holiness is your holiness, his approval by God is your approval by God. And in baptism, the Father has adopted you as his. Just as the Father said to Jesus: "**You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well-pleased**" in baptism you have God saying to you: "You are my son, my daughter, whom I love; with you I am well-pleased."

What a relief to hear ... when we're feeling beaten down and alone, what a relief to hear: "You are my son, my daughter whom I love; with you I am well-pleased!" And what power God has for us ... when we see a battle ahead of us, when we see the grinder ahead of us, God powers us, he empowers us: "You are my son, my daughter, whom I love; with you I am well-pleased." You have the power of God; you have the promise of God; you're in with God!

"So," we might wonder, "why isn't life easier?" It can be easy to think that if life is hard, we must not have the power and promise of God. Thinking that, it can be easy to think that if we're doubting the power and promise of God, we must not have the power and promise of God.

But looking at our lesson, what do we see? Jesus wasn't baptized for a spa treatment. Jesus was baptized for battle. The same thing is true for us. We're not baptized for a life at the spa. We're baptized for battle - so that in our battle between good and evil, in our struggle for the faith, when life is hard and we're put through the grinder, we can know - we're not alone and on our own, we have the power and promise of God!

Having the power and promise of God doesn't mean that life will be easy. And when life isn't easy, that doesn't mean that the power and promise of God aren't at work. In our lesson there's a verse that strikes me as odd: "**After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee preaching the good news of God.**" We heard about this last month, didn't we? God's greatest prophet was thrown into prison. God's people were being used and abused. More and more, society was godless. More and more, the church was graceless. And what does Jesus say? It's not "Why, God?" It's not "What are you doing, God?" Instead, Jesus is preaching the good news: "**The kingdom of God is near! Repent and believe the good news!**" Jesus knew God would have his way. Jesus knew God's love would win out.

We get to have that same confidence. No matter how much bad news we might have around us ... no matter how much bad news we might feel inside us ... Jesus has his good news - "**The Kingdom of God is near!**" God will have his way. And God's love will win out for you. Amen.

HYMN

"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

Hymn 737



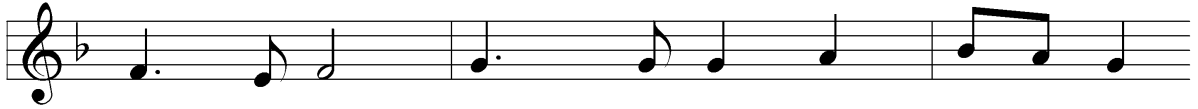
1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it:
2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er:
3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion:
4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness:
5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing



I am bap - tized in - to Christ! He, be -
I am bap - tized in - to Christ! I have
I am bap - tized in - to Christ! Drop your
I am bap - tized in - to Christ! When I
To this life - long com - fort sure! O - pen -



cause I could not pay it, Gave my full re -
 com - fort e - ven strong - er: Je - sus' cleans - ing
 ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion; I am not so
 die, I leave all sad - ness To in - her - it
 eyed my grave is star - ing: E - ven there I'll



demp - tion price. Do I need earth's trea - sures
 sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y con - science
 soon en - ticed. Now that to the font I've
 par - a - dise! Though I lie in dust and
 sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a - waits its



man - y? I have one worth more than an - y
 seize me Since my bap - tism did re - lease me
 trav - eled, All your might has come un - rav - eled,
 ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance bright - ly flash - es:
 rais - ing, Still my soul con - tin - ues prais - ing:



That brought me sal - va - tion free,
 In a dear for - giv - ing flood,
 And, a - gainst your tyr - an - ny,
 Bap - tism has the strength di - vine
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ;



Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
 Sprink - ling me with Je - sus' blood?
 God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
 To make life im - mor - tal mine.
 I'm a child of par - a - dise!

PRAYER AND 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.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN
Baptized

"All Who Believe and Are

Hymn 299

All who believe and are baptized
Shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ,
They are a new creation.
Through Christ's redemption they shall stand
Among the glorious, heav'nly band
Of ev'ry tribe and nation.

With one accord, O God, we pray:
Grant us your Holy Spirit.
Help us in our infirmity
Through Jesus' blood and merit.
Grant us to grow in grace each day
That by this sacrament we may
Eternal life inherit.

OFFERING

(Please fill out friendship pad on the pew)

*If you prefer online giving, you may scan this
code with your mobile device.*



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1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, b. 1957 © 1991 Robert E. Voelker. All rights reserved. Used by permission. **All Who Believe and Are Baptized** Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860-1942, alt. Tune: *Etlich Cristlich lider*, Wittenberg, 1524, alt.