

Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 2021

11:00 a.m.



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.

Ascension Lutheran Church

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Columbia, SC 29203

(803) 786-6429

Ascension.office827@gmail.com

The Reverend Jackie Utley, Pastor

WELCOME VISITORS

The Lutheran Liturgical Service is meant to be interactive. You will be able to follow & participate in today's Order of Service using this Bulletin. There are helpful instructions italicized throughout but please ask a neighbor or one of the Ushers if you have any questions. We invite you to partake in the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion.) Please fill out the attendance slip located in the pews and place in the Offering Plate. We welcome and encourage children in the Sanctuary. However, there is a Nursery located at the very end of the main hallway. The Women's Restroom is located through the left door, continuing through The Choir Room, then to the left. A Unisex/Handicap Restroom is located through the right door and is immediately to the left.

SERVING ASCENSION TODAY

Parish Pastor: *The Reverend Jackie Utley*
Asst. Minister: *Minister LaVone Griffin*
Lector: *Minister LaVone Griffin*
Acolyte: *Kelley Lannigan*

Parish Musician: *Gregory Stone*
Usher: *Billy Browder*
Crucifer: *Billy Browder*

NOTICES

TODAY

Sunday, January 10th Baptism of Our Lord

- 11:00 AM Holy Communion Service

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by the Members of Ascension.

Music Ministry Notes: Today marks the first Sunday after the Epiphany, which is the season of light. The hymn, "Oh Morning Star, Fair and Bright," is often sung during this season. Each of the pieces that are being presented today during the prelude, offertory, communion, and postlude are arrangements of this hymn.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, January 13th

- No Handbell Choir Rehearsal

NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday, January 17th 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

- 11:00 AM Holy Communion Service

While we are pleased to be back together worshipping in our Sanctuary, the safety of our Church Family and friends are our top priority. The Church Council is continuing to monitor the current COVID-19 statistics. We are following CDC recommendations as well as gathering information from the SC Synod office. If our worshiping practices need to be altered, we will notify everyone via mail, email, and/or phone call.

You can help by:

- Sanitizing your hands upon entering and leaving Sanctuary
- Use a face mask unless you have trouble breathing or have a medical condition that prevents you from wearing one. (Please let us know if this is the case)
- Sneeze or cough into your elbow even while wearing a mask
- DO NOT USE HYMNALS. Everything you need is in the bulletin.
- Use your own pen to label your offering envelope
- Maintain 6ft of distance between your household and others at all time.
- Come up one household at a time to receive communion, stopping at green tape
- Enjoy today's music silently or while quietly sing or humming to yourself. Please do not sing out.

Other tips:

- You may want to check your temperature before leaving home
- Stay at home if you feel sick especially with the following symptoms: high fever, cough, sore throat, stomach issues. DO NOT ASSUME IT'S JUST ALLERGIES/COLD!
- Have offering envelopes ready beforehand
- Wash hands for 20 seconds and/or use sanitizer regularly

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Pastor Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

All Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Pastor Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

Pastor We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit
moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy
Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we
praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your
Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN MEDITATION *Remember and Rejoice*

While we are following safe practices, singing should be limited. You can enjoy today's hymns by singing quietly to yourself, humming, or listening to the beautiful music and meditating on the lyrics.

- 1 Remember and rejoice, renewed by floods of grace.
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ, that time cannot erase.
- 2 In life, in death, we trust in God's most holy name,
forever traced by water sign, and sealed by Spirit flame.
- 4 God, bless us by your grace; remind us of your care.
Renewing Spirit, fill us now, inspire our work, our prayer.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
All **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray.
 Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness,
 your voice moves over the waters.
All **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**

We sit.

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 29 (Read Responsively)

Lector ¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**All ²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

Lector ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**All ⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

Lector ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**All ⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

Lector ⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**All ⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

Lector ⁹The 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!"

**All ¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

Lector ¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION FOR TIME AFTER EPIPHANY

Pastor Christ, be our light!

All Shine in your church gathered today.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1st Chapter

All Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

Pastor The Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

SERMON

A brief silence for reflection.



HYMN OF THE DAY *Baptized and Set Free*

While we are following safe practices, singing should be limited. You can enjoy today's hymns by singing quietly to yourself, humming, or listening to the beautiful music and meditating on the lyrics.

- 1 We are people created, chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently, in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more. Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing, and wholeness and more.
- 2 We are fed and we're nourished, filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed.
For whatever the need, God is greater indeed:
endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need.
- 3 We are nourished by water, all living things,
and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home, may your presence be known:
precious river, ever-flowing, now carry us home.

Stand as you are able.

APOSTLES' CREED

Asst. Min. As the called people of God,
we profess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

**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.**

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The Prayers of Intercession are also called “The Prayers of the People.” Therefore we invite Lay members, visitors, and children to read the prayers marked “Lay Person.” After each petition: Pastor/Lay Person: Let us pray. All: **Have mercy, O God.***

Pastor 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.

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

All **Have mercy, O God.**

Lay Person 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.

All **Have mercy, O God.**

Lay Person 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.

All **Have mercy, O God.**

Lay Person 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.

All **Have mercy, O God.**

Pastor 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. We especially pray for these members of our Church Family who are in the hospital, at home, or in care centers. Comfort their hearts and ours with your powerful presence:

(prayers continue next page)

All **Donna Clark** **Margarie Lever** **Delores Richardson**
 Ava Hudson **Pat Martin** **Charlene Van Patten**
 David Lever **Lisa Mosely** **Dorothy Van Patten**

Pastor And for those others we name aloud now on our lips or silently
 in our hearts... let us pray.

All **Have mercy, O God.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

All **Have mercy, O God.**

Pastor 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.

All **Amen.**

PEACE

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another verbally with “Peace be with you” or similar
words from their pews while social distancing.*

We Sit.

OFFERING *How Brightly Shines the Day Star*

Marcel Dupre

Stand as you are able.

OFFERING SONG “Clapping” Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. *(Repeat)*

OFFERING PRAYER

Asst. Minister Let us pray.

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us:
like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.

All **Nourish us anew in your tender care,
and empower us in faithful service
to tend to others with this same love,
through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.
Amen.**

+ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION +



This meal is the Lord's Supper of grace and is open to ALL Christians of any background or denomination. As Lutheran Christians, we believe in Christ's true presence in, with, and under the elements. When giving the bread and the cup, the Pastor says, "The body of Christ, given for you." & "The blood of Christ, shed for you." Each person may respond with "Amen." If you require a gluten-free wafer or prefer alcohol-free grape juice, please let the Pastor know. Children who have not received communion instruction are invited to come forward for a blessing.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you**

Pastor Lift up your hearts!

All **We lift them to the Lord!**

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

PREFACE FOR BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star, he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name with these words:

Pastor Holy, holy, holy Lord,

**All God of power 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.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

*This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of
sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

All Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus.
Come and be fed.

*We sit. Communion will begin with Congregants on the right/Pulpit aisle.
Congregants may exit their pew one household at a time to approach the Pastor to
receive Holy Communion. Please maintain 6ft of distances between households at
all times. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say: The body
of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. and each person may
respond: **Amen.***

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Lamb of God

Variations on "O Morning Star"

J.C.H Rinck

After all have returned to their places, stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

All Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Asst. Minister Let us pray.
Christ Jesus,
at this table we have feasted on your very life
and are strengthened for our journey.

All **Send us forth from this banquet
nourished in body and in spirit
to proclaim your good news
and serve others in your name.
Amen.**

BLESSING

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

All **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN MEDITATION *When Jesus Came to Jordan*

While we are following safe practices, singing should be limited. You can enjoy today's hymns by singing quietly to yourself, humming, or listening to the beautiful music and meditating on the lyrics.

- 1 When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon but as the Sinless One.
He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.
- 2 He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation to die upon the cross.
So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.
- 3 Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make;
this very day invade us, and ev'ry bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

DISMISSAL

Pastor Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Fughette on “Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern”*

J.C Bach

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PRAYER LIST – Our members, family, and friends with current needs:

Family of John Jones, friends of Pastor Jackie Utley

John Boyd & Family, brother-in-law of Pastor Jackie Utley

Martin Poole & Linda Poole, sister & brother-in-law of Billy Browder

Stewardship/Receipts for Sunday, January 3, 2021:

Attendance: 16

Program \$3965.00 Loose \$ 20.00

Total \$3,985.00



Between now and Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th, we will be collecting non-perisable food items for Fast Forward, an organizaiton that helps homeless veterans. Monetary donations can come through the offering or placed in the “Souper Bowl” that will be out on February 7th. Don’t forget to mark your offering envelopes under the special section. Gift cards to local grocery stores or wal-mart also accept.

Items most needed are items easily opened without can openers and other utensils:

- Easy open pouches of tuna/chicken
- Pop-top cans of meats/Vienna sausages
- Granola/fruit/breakfast bars
- Individual packs of crackers/cookies/raisins/nuts
- Beef jerky