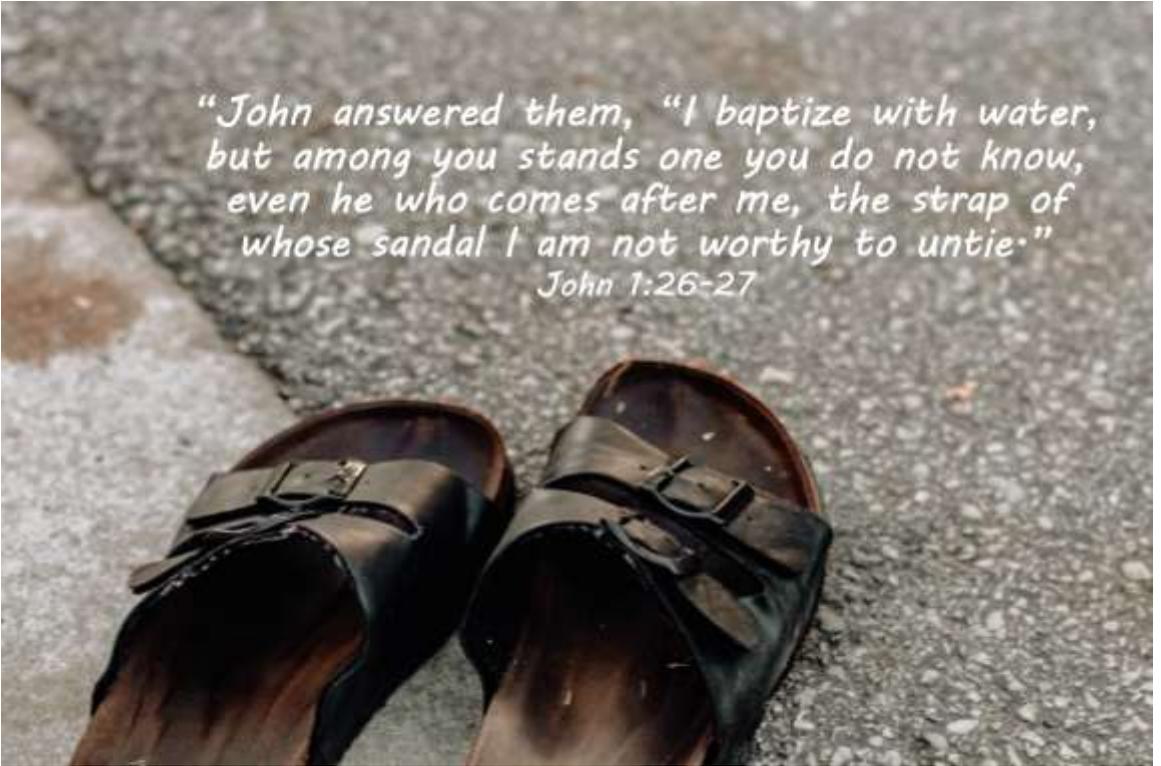


OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 13, 2020

*"John answered them, "I baptize with water,
but among you stands one you do not know,
even he who comes after me, the strap of
whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."*

John 1:26-27



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1822 East Lincoln Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

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OUR MISSION

“The Our Redeemer church family exists to **welcome** people to faith;
help people **grow** in the faith that works in real life;
and **serve** our community and the world together in **Jesus’** name.”

GUESTS AND MEMBERS – WELCOME TO OUR REDEEMER

We’re happy that you’ve joined us in worship, especially if you are a visitor with us.
We pray that the Lord who led you here would lead you into a time of knowing Him better,
trusting in Him more, and growing deeper in His love as He places His Word
and cross before your eyes, ears, and hearts.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & LISTENING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE

Please see an usher for assistance with these items.

COVID-19 Reminder

As ministry opportunities sponsored by Our Redeemer continue to resume onsite and elsewhere, the leadership of our congregation recognizes the new challenges that exist when gathering together. Below is a reminder for everyone in the church family to consider before participating in any worship service or activity:

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people. We are doing everything we can to be compliant with all regulations and ensure your safety. We have put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, but we cannot guarantee that you or family members will not become infected with COVID-19.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

WELCOME

OPENING SONG “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” *LSB 344 v. 1-3*



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.

INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

Based on Psalm 126

P: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!

C: **Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!**

P: He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

C: **Shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.**

P: Lord, we need You to forgive us and restore us,

C: **As we sow tears of repentance from our sins, restore the joy of our salvation.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

ABSOLUTION

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

GOSPEL READING

John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SERMON

“Living Beyond”

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon Notes and Additional References

The danger of “out driving” in the world:

“Out-driving” means exceeding _____

Sometimes when life *seems* most clear we are actually “_____ - _____”
our relationship with God.

Jesus _____ His life for us! ... John is preparing you for
_____.

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to *the other side*, while he dismissed the crowds. (Matthew 14:22)

He went away again *across* the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. (John 10:40)

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples *across* the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. (John 18:1)

“God deals with us in _____ as we travel our course on earth... He brings us through the _____ of _____ and _____ with Jesus to usher us completely into the _____ of His _____.”

Living Beyond means _____ your vision into what only _____.

Living Beyond: John the Baptist

And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John's baptism.” (Acts 19:3)

Living Beyond: Serving the Community

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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 BLESSING

Based on Psalm 126 and Numbers 6:24-26

P: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

C: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;

P: Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

C: The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“Once He Came in Blessing”

LSB 333 v. 1, 3

1 Once He came in blessing, All our sins re -
3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.

Acknowledgments

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Once He Came in Blessing - Tune and text: Public domain. Text (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001063

Weekly Worship Meditations and Preparation Thoughts

For meditation from Sunday's worship: Read John 1:6-8, 19-28

- Pray about a boundary in life where you struggle to see how God is leading you into "living beyond."
- Put John 1:26-27 somewhere you can see it and reflect this week.

For preparation for next week: Read Luke 1:26-38

- How might this have seemed to Mary when she heard Gabriel?
- What kind of impossible situations have you experienced?

Serving Us Today

Pastor - Rev. Peter Weeks

Director of Youth and Family Ministry - Arlyn Meyer

Organist - Trudy Rowold

Elders	8:00 am	John Ohlendorf	(826-6335)
	10:30 am	Jeff Kuenneth	(533-5844)
Ushers	8:00 am	Les Holloway (Lead) and Doris Davenport	
	10:30 am	Max Bauer (Lead) and John Walther	

Altar Flowers

*The flowers on the altar are sponsored by Steve and Chris Sewell
in celebration of Anna's 18th birthday today.*