

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)



Baptism of Our Lord  
Service of The Word  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
January 10, 2021 at 11 am

# Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A "Reconciling in Christ"

Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America (ELCA).

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

Improvisation on *When Jesus came to Jordan / Wade in the water*

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.

*Wade in the water, wade in the water, children—  
wade in the water, God's a-gonna trouble the water.*

Look over yonder, what do I see?  
The Holy Spirit a-coming on me.  
If you don't believe I've been redeemed,  
just follow me down to Jordan's stream.

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P 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.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Holy God,

C **you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all  
our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by  
sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.  
We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of  
love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the  
earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to  
come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and  
left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues,  
you know them; receive them in your divine mercy.  
Amen.**

P How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of  
✠ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed  
as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake  
of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved  
community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's  
reconciling peace.

C Amen.

### \*GREETING

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

C And also with you.

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen.

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

Lisa Wackler

*Today's other readings are:*

#### Psalm 29

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

#### Acts 19:1-7

*Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus*

### 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.*

<sup>1</sup>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.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **INSTRUMENTAL GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**\*GOSPEL**

**Mark 1:4-11**

P The Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

<sup>4</sup>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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Andrea Walker**

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

**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**

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.*

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 wisely, 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 (*especially*), that God shower compassion, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

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.

**Have mercy, O God.**

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

**Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

*(Please remember to send your offering via mail, online giving  
or by text. Our Text2Give number is 844-262-6943)*

## **OFFERING SOLO**

*O healing river*—setting by David Cherwien,  
of a song by Fred Hellerman and Fran Minkoff

(Marcia Perez, soprano)

*O healing river, send down your waters, upon this land.*

*O healing river, send your waters down.*

*Let the seed of freedom awake and flourish.*

*Let the deep roots nourish, let the tall stalks rise.*

*O healing river, send down your water.*

*O healing river, from out of the skies.*

## **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

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

**C Amen.**

## **\*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

**P** O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you  
illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.  
Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others,  
and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy  
Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**C Amen.**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray together the prayer Our Savior taught us:

C **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.**

### **\*BLESSING**

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

C **Amen.**

### **\*DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

*When Christ's appearing was made known*—Johann Walther

*stz. 3:* Within the Jordan's sacred flood the heavenly Lamb in meekness stood,  
that He, of whom no sin was known,  
might cleanse His people from their own.

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*Today, we pray for those who are sick or suffering in any way, especially;* For all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, David Huberman, David & Barbara Althouse, Judy Baumgardner, Carmen Ortiz, Carol Hollar, the Revana and Mahan families, Maggie, Jane, JJ, Barb Pitts, Carolyn Boston, Michon, Taquina, Levi, Julie Hamlin, Greg McAllister, the Carr family, Pearl Apisson, Gillian Flory, Russell and Stephanie Thomas, Joan Tolbert, Stefanie Skurcenski, Barbara Hostage, Sue Ericsson, Russell Stevens, Glenn Ralph, Betty Mastrobattista, Richard, Dallas Dean, Carolyn Denison, Lois Leland, Bill Jackson, Grace Yin, Ralph Benson, Neal, the Williamson family and for all Christians persecuted for their faith throughout the world.