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**The Baptism of Our Lord**

“We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” *Romans 6:4*

**AS WE GATHER**

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. Such a day is also a good time to remember our own Baptism. In Baptism, we are buried with Christ. We are united with Him in a death like His. In Baptism, we are also raised to new life as re-creations. As we are united to Christ in death, we will also be united with Him in resurrection when He returns and raises the dead.

**Psalm** 29

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES** *Genesis 1:1–2; Psalm 29:3–4*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

**People: And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**

Pastor: And God said, “Let there be light.”

**People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters.**

Pastor: The voice of the Lord is powerful.

**People: The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

Pastor: The voice of the Lord reveals Jesus as His Son.

**People: The voice of the Lord reveals we are His children too.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: In Holy Baptism, each of us was baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In Baptism, we were united with Christ. Yet, we have often lived as if we were entirely independent and autonomous. We have lived as if our identity were not in Jesus, but in our own selfish desires. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to turn back to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

 *Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: we confess that we are by nature sinful and have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. On account of Jesus, forgive us, renew us, and unite us to Your name.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. In Baptism, you were united to Christ in both His death and resurrection. You were buried with Him, but also raised to walk in newness of life. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. We are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Father Welcomes”* (*LSB* 605)

*Refrain* Father welcomes all His childrento His fam’ly through His Son.

Father giving His salvation, life forever has been won.

Little children, come to me, for My kingdom is of these.

Life and love I have to give, mercy for your sin. *Refrain*

In the water, in the Word, in His promise, be assured:

those who are baptized and believe shall be born again. *Refrain*

Let us daily die to sin; let us daily rise with Him,

walk in the love of Christ our Lord, live in the peace of God. *Refrain*

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**OLD TESTAMENT** Genesis 1:1-5

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below Collect of the Day)*

**EPISTLE** Romans 6:1-11

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Mark 1:4-11

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN** *“Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered”* (*LSB* 404)

Jesus, once with sinners numbered, had no blemish of His own;

in the waters of the Jordan His true worth and work were shown:

Heaven opened and the Spirit there descended like a dove,

as the Father’s voice resounded, “Hear My Son, the One I love.”

John confessed Him as the Savior—“Look, the sinless Lamb of God!”

Yet he dared not loose the sandals of the One God’s love had shod.

Oh, how fair the feet of Jesus, bringing news of peace to us,

Christ, the herald of salvation, preaching mercy from the cross:

This the baptism that our Savior greatly longed to undergo;

this the crimson cleansing needed so the world God’s love might know;

this the mission of Messiah as He stepped from Jordan’s stream,

He, the chosen and anointed Son of God, sent to redeem.

Jesus, once with sinners numbered, full obedience was Your path;

You, by death, have consecrated water in this saving bath:

dying to the sin of Adam, rising to a life of grace;

we are counted with the righteous, over us the cross You trace.

**SERMON *“Jesus Was Baptized”***

# THE NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

**OFFERING**

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

*(after each petition):* Pastor: Lord, by mighty work and wonder,

 **People: reveal Your grace to us.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“O Blessed Spring”* (*LSB* 595)

O blessèd spring, where Word and sign

embrace us into Christ the Vine:

here Christ enjoins each one to be

a branch of this life-giving Tree.

Through summer heat of youthful years,

uncertain faith, rebellious tears,

sustained by Christ’s infusing rain,

the boughs will shout for joy again.

When autumn cools and youth is cold,

when limbs their heavy harvest hold,

then through us, warm, the Christ will move

with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.

As winter comes, as winters must,

we breathe our last, return to dust;

still held in Christ, our souls take wing

and trust the promise of the spring.

Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree,

be praised for this blest mystery:

that Word and water thus revive

and join us to Your Tree of Life.

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have revealed to us Your beloved Son, Jesus. We implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through His body and blood and empower us to live as Your children; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“Beautiful Savior”* (*LSB* 537)

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,

Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I’d love Thee, truly I’d serve Thee,

Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,

robed in flow’rs of blooming spring;

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,

He makes our sorr’wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,

Bright the sparkling stars on high;

Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer

than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,

Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, praise, adoration

Now and forevermore be Thine!

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH,**

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**