

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:**

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**THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

**JANUARY 9, 2011**

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WELCOME to all who are visiting today! Our greatest desire is to share that wonderful message of forgiveness and eternal salvation for all in Jesus' name. We pray you will be drawn closer to Christ as the Holy Spirit nurtures us through God's Word in this service. Before you leave, please, take time to sign our guest register in the entrance way, and we hope you will join us every week as we gather as God's family in worship.

**8:00am**  
WELCOME

**HYMN: "From Wilderness to Jordan Came" (tune TLH 63)**

- 1.From wilderness to Jordan came, The final Prophet to proclaim  
That Judgment soon was to begin, To punish mankind for their sin.
  - 2.Although of Abraham's descent, Since all have sinned, all must repent,  
And, like the Gentiles, undergo; A baptism, and its import show.
  - 3.But when Christ came, no judgment dire; Did He pronounce with venging fire;  
Himself the baptism underwent, The Sinless One, subservient.
  - 4.On Him the Spirit as a dove; Descended, and the Father's love  
Voiced His approval that the Son; Mankind's salvation had begun.
  - 5.All glory, Lord, to You we pay; For Your Epiphany today;  
And to the Father tribute bring, As by the Spirit here we sing.
- (public domain)

**REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM: (Responses adapted from Romans 6)**

- P. In one and the same instant you died and were born again.
- C. DON'T YOU KNOW THAT ALL OF US WHO WERE BAPTIZED IN CHRIST JESUS WERE BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH?
- P. The Bible tells us that there is "a time to be born and a time to die." For you, however, it was the reverse. First you died, and then you were born again.
- C. WE WERE THEREFORE BURIED WITH CHRIST THROUGH BAPTISM INTO DEATH IN ORDER THAT, JUST AS CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM DEATH THROUGH THE GLORY OF THE FATHER, WE TOO MAY LIVE A NEW LIFE.

- P. Daily - in the morning when you get up, and in the evening, when you go to bed - remember that you have died and been reborn through Baptism,
- C. IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:13-17**

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

**A NEW BEGINNING IN BAPTISM:**

- P. You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who are baptized in Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (Gal 3:26-27)
- C. AS GOD'S CHILDREN WE REMEMBER WHAT A BAPTISM IS. BAPTISM IS NOT JUST PLAIN WATER, BUT IT IS THE WATER INCLUDED IN GOD'S COMMAND AND COMBINED WITH GOD'S WORD.
- P. What is that word of God?
- C. CHRIST OUR LORD SAYS IN THE LAST CHAPTER OF MATTHEW; THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU.

**EPISTLE READING: Acts 10:34-38**

34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. 36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. 37 You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

**THE POWER OF BAPTISM:**

- P. Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. (Col 3:1-3)

C. CERTAINLY NOT JUST WATER, BUT THE WORD OF GOD IN AND WITH THE WATER DOES THESE THINGS, ALONG WITH FAITH WHICH TRUSTS THIS WORD OF GOD IN THE WATER. FOR WITHOUT GOD'S WORD THE WATER IS PLAIN WATER AND NO BAPTISM. BUT WITH THE WORD OF GOD IT IS A BAPTISM, THAT IS A LIFE-GIVING WATER, RICH IN GRACE, AND A WASHING OF THE NEW BIRTH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

P. God saved us through he washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit so that, having been justified by His grace,

C. WE MIGHT BECOME HEIRS HAVING THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE. *(Titus 3:5-8)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 42:1-7

*I* “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. 2 He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. 3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; 4 he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope.” 5 This is what God the LORD says— he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: 6 “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, 7 to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

### LIVING IN BAPTISM - OUR DAILY JOURNEY:

P. What does baptizing with water indicate?

C. IT INDICATES THAT THE OLD ADAM OR SINFUL NATURE IN US SHOULD BY DAILY CONTRITION AND REPENTANCE BE CROWNED AND DIE WITH ALL SINS AND EVIL DESIRES, AND THAT A NEW MAN SHOULD DAILY EMERGE AND ARISE TO LIVE BEFORE GOD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PURITY FOREVER.

P. We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. *(Eph 2:10)*

C. PUT OFF YOUR OLD SELF, WHICH IS BEING CORRUPTED BY ITS DECEITFUL DESIRES, TO BE MADE NEW IN THE ATTITUDES OF YOUR MINDS, AND PUT ON THE NEW SELF, CREATED TO BE LIKE GOD IN TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS. *(Eph 4:22-33)*

**HYMN: “Breathe My Name”** *(tune: Ode to Joy)*

1. God the Father, You have known me from creation of the earth. Searched me, Lord, completely knowing of the moment of my birth. Fashion'd me within my mother, with Your hands You knitted me. Breathed into my life Your breath a living soul I came to be.

2. Dearest Jesus, You have known me on the cross of Calvary. Searched my soul completely saving, breath'd your last in place of me. Through the water and the Spirit washed away my life of sin. Crucified together with You, Lord in me You breathe again.

3. Holy Spirit, You have known me all my days before they came. Nowhere can I flee Your presence in the womb You knew my name. By your power, through Your working, You have breathed my name again. That through faith it shall be written in the book of life, in heav'n.

SERMON: Acts 10:34-38 **"How Could God Accept Us?"**

*(A sermon outline with the Scripture reading is printed in the bulletin to aid your meditation on God's Word)*

### BAPTISMAL CONFESSION OF FAITH:

P. Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

C. I DO.

P. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

C. I DO.

P. Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C. I DO.

P. Will you continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship, the breaking of prayer, and in prayer?

C. I WILL WITH THE HELP OF GOD.

P. Will you continue to resist evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

C. I WILL WITH THE HELP OF GOD.

P. May the Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all you sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

C. WHICH HE DOES BY REASSURING US OF HIS ACCEPTANCE, AND PLACING HIS NAME AS OUR GOD UPON US IN OUR BAPTISM. THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

### OFFERING + RITE OF FELLOWSHIP

*(Please sign fellowship book at end of pew.)*

**SONG: “Like a Shepherd”** *(sung during offering)*

1. Like a father feeds his children, like a shepherd leads his flock, the Lord will always guide us and show us where to walk; And in times when we have plenty, in times when we have not, He is our Provider and His mercy never stops.

*Chorus:* Like a shepherd He leads us, like a father He feeds us, from the morning, to the evening, till the sunrise again; Like a shepherd He leads us, like a father He feeds us, He is the great I Am.

2. As we come into His presence confessing Him as Lord, His Holy Spirit leads us, He feeds us by His Word; We're seated at His table, partaking of His love, children of His kingdom, purchased by His blood. *(Chorus)*

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## OFFICER INSTALLATION AND RECOGNITION

## PRAYERS

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER:** *(Spoken together)*

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.

### **BLESSING:**

P. As Almighty God sent forth His Son from the waters of Baptism, filled with the Spirit for service,

C. SO HE SENDS US HIS HOLY AND ACCEPTED PEOPLE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT FOR SERVICE AS WELL.

P. May we shine as the Lord's light to the nations in the name of Jesus, our baptized Lord.

C. SO BE IT! AMEN.

### **SONG: "Song for the Nations" (Mt 28:19)**

*(Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19)*

1. May we be a shining light to the nations, a shining light to the peoples of the earth; Til the whole world sees the glory of your name. May Your pure light shine through us.
2. May we bring a word of hope to the nations, a word of life to the peoples of the earth; Til the whole world knows there's salvation through Your name. May Your mercy flow thorough us.
3. May we be a healing balm to the nations, a healing balm to the peoples of the earth; Til the whole world knows the power of Your name. May Your healing flow through us.
4. May we sing a song of joy to the nations, a song of praise to the peoples of the earth; Till the whole world rings with the praises of Your name. May Your song be sung through us.
5. May your kingdom come to the nations, Your will be done to the peoples of the earth; Til the whole world knows that Jesus Christ is Lord, May Your kingdom come in us.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS + POSTLUDE

### PRAISE BAND SCHEDULE FOR MONTH OF JANUARY:

January 9th, 23rd and 30th – 10:30 Service

## Acts 10:34-38

## **"How Could God Accept Us?"**

34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. 36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. 37 You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

1. In what way do we want to be like a VISA card?
2. Because others don't always accept us, what does that lead us to wonder about God?
3. What does God require for his acceptance?
  - A.
  - B.
4. What does it mean to fear God?
5. How do our lives show us we don't always fear God like we should?
6. Where do we see true fear of God displayed?
7. How do we know what's right for us to do?
8. When did Jesus really do good and heal those who were under the power of the devil?
9. What does Jesus do to make us acceptable to God?