

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Sunday Morning Worship

Please remember to pick up your communion elements on your way to your seats.

You may also take a stone to remember your baptism on this day.

Call to Worship

The voice of the Lord is over the waters,
And in the temple God's people say: Glory!
The heavens opened, the Spirit descended,
And voice sounded: This is my Beloved Son.
Do not fear, for the Lord has spoken:
I have called you by name; you are mine.

Opening Prayer

Holy God, you sent your Son to be baptized among sinners, to seek and save the lost. May we, who have been baptized in his name, never turn away from the world, but reach out in love to rescue the wayward; by the mercy of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord!
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so, in Christ, God speaks to us: You are my child, my beloved; with you I am well pleased.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination

Saving God, source of our calling, your Word is full of power and glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may receive your grace and live as your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He 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." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul 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." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

Sermon

"With You, I Am Well Pleased"

Service of Baptism for Robert David MacDonald

Presentation

Profession of Faith

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Baptism, Laying on of Hands, and Anointing

Welcoming the Newly Baptized

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

Please partake of communion at this time in the service.

Prayer After Communion

Benediction and Sending

For Reflection at Home This Week

Questions for Reflection

What is the difference between baptism alone (John's baptism; see Acts 19:3, Mark 1:8) and baptism with the Holy Spirit (baptism into Jesus; see Acts 19:4-5, Mark 1:8)? Why is it still important to use water in baptism? What does water mean in your daily life? What difference does the Holy Spirit make in baptism? What difference does the Holy Spirit make in your daily life?

Morning Household Prayer

Living God, maker of light, thank you for the gift of this day. Let me be a light in your world so that people will look at me and see the goodness of your creation; in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Evening Household Prayer

Living God, maker of light, thank you for the gift of this night. Let me be at peace in your presence so that I may rest, be restored, and arise to praise your glory; in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.