



# WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LILY LAKE, IL

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Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 \* 9:30 AM \* INPERSON and ONLINE



## **BAPTISM OF JESUS**

### **Introduction**

**TODAY'S THEME:** Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

**Print out your bulletin or use it on your phone or tablet to follow along.**

*Announcements are televised or found on our website*

**Be creative how you worship and remember God during this time. It will calm your soul, give you peace and enliven your spirit.**

*Our community gathers in unity with others in-person and a virtual way.*

*We hope all people find it easy to follow along.*

## **GOD GATHERS US**

*Announcements are found on our website*

### **PRELUDE**

### **I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry**

*We invite you to read/respond to the texts, pray the prayers, using this as a meditation guide all week long.*

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: God, our rock and refuge,

**C: we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

**C: Amen.**

### **OPENING SONG**

**Baptized in Water**

**ELW 456 Red Hymnal**

### **GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

**All: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray...Holy God,

**All: 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.**

**Amen**

## **SHARING OF PEACE**

**P:** God has received us, pardoned us and loved us; let us forgive each other in love and share the peace of Christ. Peace be with you.

**All: And you also.**

Share the peace with each other either by a wave or a bow.

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

### **FIRST READING:**

### **Matthew 2:1-12**

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**P:** Word of God; Word of Life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:4-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

**ALL: 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: This is the Gospel of the Lord

**ALL: Praise to You O Christ!**

## MESSAGE FOR ALL

Pastor David Mercurio

**SONG OF DAY**

**I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

**ELW 815 Red Hymnal**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**P:** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 power of 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.**

**OFFERING IS WELCOMED**

*(An offering will be taken before the prayer.)*

**Offertory Music**

**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

P: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**All: Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

*See list of those Grace is currently praying for at end of this document or online. Please let us know your prayer needs.*

*Please respond accordingly*

P: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

P: Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**



P: Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them in the Spirit's love.**

P: Let us give thanks to our Triune God.

**ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**P:** It is indeed right that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O God. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all who believe in Him should not perish. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his Holy Supper.

## **P: WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**ALL: 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**

**P:** These are the gifts of God for the people of God.  
**All: Thanks be to God**

## **TAKE AND EAT OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

### ***Communion hymns:***

**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence  
As With Gladness Men of Old  
Love Has Come**

**ELW 490 Red Hymnal  
ELW 302 Red Hymnal  
ELW 292 Red Hymnal**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P:** Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.  
**ALL: Amen**

**CLOSING SONG      This is the Spirit's Entry Now      ELW 448 Red Hymnal**

### **GOD SENDS US**

## **BLESSING**

**P:** God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✝  
bless you and remain with you always.  
**ALL: Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. You are God's beloved.  
**ALL: Thanks be to God**

**POSTLUDE      Christmas Duets      James Gwizdala**

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## **ADDITIONAL WEEKLY LECTIONARY LESSON**

### **Genesis 1:1-5**

God creates light God creates light

### **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*

## **1/7/24 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WORSHIP MASKING-Update** We have been sitting at a social distance as we have felt comfortable in the sanctuary. Please continue Masking at your comfort level.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** The altar flowers today are donated by Gloria and George Theros who are looking forward with hope in this new year.

**A NOTE FROM MARGARET SWANSON** I really want to give thanks to my church family for all the care and love you have shown me this year in so many ways. I have seen God's love for us in your actions, your help and your caring. God Bless you all.

**COFFEE HOUR TODAY** in Fellowship Hall after worship

**ORGAN TROUBLES:** We are experiencing trouble with the organ and will be using the piano for our Sunday music until further notice.

**GIVING TREE** With great joy we had delivered 50 gifts bagged for children at the Elgin Crisis Center. The tree is now adorned with hats, mittens, gloves and socks which will also be delivered to the Crisis Center in Elgin on January 6<sup>th</sup>

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Sunday school is today and continues to meet on the first and third Sundays of the month through May 2024.

**LECTORS ARE NEEDED** for readings during our service. Please look for the clipboard. Thank you for your assistance in our service.



**NOISY OFFERING** We collect a Noisy Offering whenever you wish to empty your change purse or pockets! Our next project we are collecting for is window caulking. Thank you for your support!

**BRIDGE TO LIFE DONATIONS** The Bridge to Life Group continues to collect donations for the Elgin homeless. For details see the News Letter or Cathy Whiteside.  
*Thank you for your generous donations!*

**OFFERINGS & FAITHFUL GIVING FOR THE MINISTRIES AT GRACE**

We are thankful for ALL of your 2023 offerings and donations. \$2,039 was collected to close out the year. The Vision Team is working on the 2024 budget and what our weekly needs will be. **Please plan to attend our annual meeting on Sun, Jan. 28, right after our 9:30 worship.**

~ Blessings upon Grace in our 129<sup>th</sup> year of ministry ~

VISIT OUR Website [www.graceoflilylake.com](http://www.graceoflilylake.com)

FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND SERVICES

Get ALL the news you NEED there – including our weekly services

And our FACEBOOK PAGE for activities and posts of interest:

<https://www.facebook.com/GraceOfLilyLake/>

630-365-6751

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH**

- \* God's Church in all time and place, that God be seen and heard.
- \* As we face these times both together and while apart, keep us from fear, suffering and death.
- \* Ministries of the ELCA and Metro Chicago Synod, especially Bishop Yehiel Curry.
- \* Efforts of Lutheran World Relief, ELCA World Hunger, and Disaster Relief

**FOR THE WORLD**

- \* For every living person facing the threat of coronavirus – it affects us all, our loved ones and our worldwide neighbors together.
- \* For the healing of the divisions in our Nation.

**FOR OUR CONGREGATION**

- \* For God's Spirit to guide the Vision Team, and whole congregation as we face transition and change.
- \* As we plan regarding the future of our congregation.

**FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY** (members, relatives, and friends of members of our congregation)

- \* Adam & Julia Sajdak, grandson & granddaughter in law of Bill and Lori U'Ren
- \* Nathan Sajdak, grandson of Bill and Lori U'Ren

\* William Delmer, grandson of Kirk and Kathy Hooey

\* David Brazee, Grandson of Steve and Cathy Lindquist

(If you know of someone currently serving our country, please share their information with the Church office.)

### **FOR ALL**

\* The continued support of our members

\* For all members of healthcare around the world

\* For those serving as first responders and in the military

\* For our Nation, that extend peace in all things.

**FOR THOSE SICK IN BODY, MIND OR SPIRIT...** Andrew Kinsel and his family in Ukraine, Bob Acker, Fred Alstadt, Barb Asher, Joanna Alverado/Klaus, Vicki Barclay, Stephanie Barton, Aina Baumanis, Viola Bradshaw, Jim (brother of Rita Burnham), Elaine Chaney (Twyla Strom's niece), Phil Chavez and his family, Jane Cutler, Ken Deutschmann, Alexa Diehl, Natalia Diehl, David Diehl (Kelly's cousin), Jan Docherty, Rebecca Eagen, Ted Ellingsen, Pat Eineke, Marge Granquist, Joyce Helander and Jim Serafin, Howard (friend of Alexa Diehl), Rich Jackson, John Karras (nephew of Nancy Schnaitman,) Manfred Kaufmann, Tace Kayser & his family (Tricia's grandson), Paul and Kay Kinsel, Marlene Klingner, Bob Koehling, Katie Kozeva, Pastor Dave and Carol Langseth, Ray Larsen, Gay Leslie, Pat and Chili Lindgren, Steve Lindquist, Sherry Manke, Janelle McDonald, George and Eileen Morris, Joan Mortenson, Linda Mowers (sister-in-law to Pat Lindgren), Ray Navarro, Bob Nelson, Alaina Neufeld, Ed Nordwind, Donald Overby, Carol Prevenas, Kirk Reardon, Nancy and John Schaefer, John Schnaitman, Tia Thorne, Norm Turner, Crystal Vines, Cordelia Vogel, Pastor Arne Walker, Kristy Weydert, Wayne Whiteside, Jon Wild, Kelly Wilken & her family (Missy Barton's sister), the Wilkens (Missy Barton's parents), Bud Wise, & Barbara Zegiel.

*If you have requested that anyone (including yourself) be put on Grace's prayer list, thank you for your faith in our work of prayer! In order to keep our list current and accurate, we would like to hear from you regarding the need for continued prayer, praises and new requests. You may place these in a note in the offering plate, leave them on the answering machine at church (630-365-6751) or speak with Pastor or Kathy Hooey. Aren't we blessed to have a God who listens and cares!*

**ALSO** - Do you know someone who could use a reminder of our prayers and God's constant love? We have lovely **prayer shawls** all ready for delivery. Just see a Rebecca Circle member.

*Please let us know your prayer requests for inclusion in our public prayers.  
Type them in the comments or send them to the church office via our prayer card on our website.*