



***I have
baptized
you with water;
but he will baptize
you with
the Holy Spirit.***

Mark 1.8



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to the Lord's House!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pierpont, S.D. • Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

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Jan. 12, 2009 - Baptism of Jesus

♪ **Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing.**

♪ **He rules the world, with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove; the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we welcome all travelers to this house of worship and praise. This is the day that the Lord has made. **P: Let us all be glad and rejoice in it.**

Prayer of the Day

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. Amen.

♪ **Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

This church confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in the one and only God.

We confess that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation for all who believe.

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death and resurrection God fashions a new creation.

We proclaim that God's message to us is both Law and Gospel and is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

I believe that the Bible is the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them, God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain our faith and fellowship for service in the world.

We confess that we have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God. The Law is good, pure, right and holy; however, it is impossible for us to keep the law and all of the commandments. While the law comes from the very heart of God, so does His forgiveness through faith in Jesus in Christ.

I believe that faith comes by hearing and by hearing of the word of God. (Rom. 10:18) I have been justified through faith and I have peace with God through my Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 5:1)

Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus, the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to us all. Through Him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses. (Act. 13:38-39)

The Apostle's Creed describes the faith into which we are baptized and therefore let us join together in confessing our faith according to the words of the Apostle's 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 into hell. 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Genesis 1:1-5

Genesis includes creation stories drawn from two different sources. The authors of the first creation story emphasize the goodness of God's creation, and how God created the orderly world out of chaos, and gave humans a place of honour.

The Beginning

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, "**Let there be light,**" and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Acts 19:1-7

Luke, also the author of Acts, has just told us about Apollos, a learned, eloquent spokesman for God who knew only the baptism of John. After learning that Jesus is the Messiah, he travelled to Greece, proclaiming the good news of Christ. In our reading, twelve disciples of John come to accept Christ, and are baptised.

Paul in Ephesus

¹While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ²and asked them, “**Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?**”

They answered, “**No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.**”

³So Paul asked, “**Then what baptism did you receive?**”

“**John’s baptism,**” they replied.

⁴Paul said, “**John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.**” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷There were about twelve men in all.

♪ WOY 716: Word of God Come Down on Earth

Mark 1:4-11

In the first verses of this gospel, Mark quotes an Old Testament passage prophesying that God will send a messenger to prepare the way for Christ. The good news of Jesus Christ begins with John’s call to repentance.

⁴And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message: “**After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**”

The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus

⁹At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: **"You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."**

P This is the gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ**

♪ WOV 690: Shall We Gather at the River

The Message: Baptized into Christ

Response to the Word and Prayer

We are encouraged, comforted and urged to live lives worthy of God, who calls us into his kingdom and glory.

I thank God for receiving His word. (1 Thessalonians 2:12-14)

You have anointed many servants in the Church to proclaim the Good News - to be Baptised into your Name.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

God almighty said, "I am proud of You" to Jesus.

Thank you God for sending your only Son to teach us Your ways.

Our nation has blessings because of You. Guide the transition from President Bush to President-Elect Obama. Give us Americans the humble audacity to work for peace and to end poverty here at home and around the world.

Everyone is a child of God, an heir of the heavenly kingdom.

Your healing word has recreated us over and over. Send that Word to those in need, especially for those whom we name in our hearts Use us as instruments of healing.

I am thankful to You, Lord, for what you have given us, and I look forward to Your return.

We pray this all in Jesus' name, who has also taught us to pray . . .

Our Father . . . (Lord's Prayer)

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Our Thankoffering

♪ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✦ Benediction & AMEN

♪ **WOV: I was there to hear your Borning Cry**

Word Search Puzzle

from www.geocities.com/lectionarypuzzles/
free to distribute for free with this notice
Words are in a straight line in all directions

A S C A M E G T E D N A
N P N J O H N I R E A E
M R A E K I I R E Z D E
A L S R V M D I T I R L
R I Z V T A N P A T O I
K K F J S E E S W P J L
E E R E U V C H T A U A
S N O S J O S H D B S G
O Y M U U D E S A E L P
H W A S O F D V O I C E
T I T D Y B E L O V E D
U T G N I M O C L L E W
O H T E R A Z A N R O T

(Mark 1:9-11) In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. {10} 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. {11} And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” (NRSV)

Word List

DESCENDING	COMING	NRSV	YOU	MY
NAZARETH	WATER	MARK	THE	BY
BAPTIZED	VOICE	LIKE	SON	
PLEASED	THOSE	JUST	SAW	
HEAVENS	JESUS	JOHN	OUT	
GALILEE	APART	FROM	HIM	
BELOVED	WITH	DOVE	AND	
SPIRIT	WELL	DAYS	UP	
JORDAN	TORN	CAME	OF	