



You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

+ *Mark 1:11b (NKJV)*

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 10, 2021



"The Baptism of Christ" attributed to Emilio Savonanzi, 1630/1635, Public Domain

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord Christ Jesus. At Jesus' Baptism, God the Father speaks from heaven, revealing Jesus to be His beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove. All three persons of the Trinity make their presence known at Jesus' Baptism. All three persons of the Trinity made their presence known at our Baptism as well as we are revealed to be God's beloved children.

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 new creations. As we are united to Christ in death like His, so also shall we be united with Him in resurrection like His when He returns on the Last Day. Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor's phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor's email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION: To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord

LSB 406, sts. 1–4

1 To Jor - dan came the Christ, our Lord, To do His
 2 O hear and mark the mes - sage well, For God Him -
 3 These truths on Jor - dan's banks were shown By might - y
 4 There stood the Son of God in love, His grace to

Fa - ther's plea - sure; Bap - tized by John, the Fa - ther's Word
 self has spo - ken. Let faith, not doubt, a - mong us dwell
 word and won - der. The Fa - ther's voice from heav'n came down,
 us ex - tend - ing; The Ho - ly Spir - it like a dove

Was giv - en us to trea - sure. This heav'n - ly wash - ing
 And so re - ceive this to - ken. Our Lord here with His
 Which we do well to pon - der: "This man is My be -
 Up - on the scene de - scend - ing; The tri - une God as -

now shall be A cleans - ing from trans - gres - sion
 Word en - dows Pure wa - ter, free - ly flow - ing.
 lov - ed Son, In whom My heart has plea - sure.
 sur - ing us, With prom - is - es com - pel - ling,

And by His blood and ag - o - ny Re - lease from death's
 God's Ho - ly Spir - it here a - vows Our kin - ship while
 Him you must hear, and Him a - lone, And trust in full -
 That in our Bap - tism He will thus A - mong us find

op - pres - sion. A new life now a - waits us.
 be - stow - ing The Bap - tism of His bless - ing.
 est mea - sure The word that He has spo - ken."
 a dwell - ing To com - fort and sus - tain us.

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Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[Hebrews 10:22]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalms 32:5

Kneel (or remain standing) — Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

C **Amen.**

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 2:7–11, 12c; antiphon: Isaiah 42:1a

The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.



(Antiphon) Behold My servant, whom | I uphold,*
My chosen, in whom My | soul delights.

⁷ I will tell of | the decree:*

The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son; today I have be- | gotten You.

⁸ **Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your | heritage,*
and the ends of the earth Your pos- | session.**

⁹ You shall break them with a | rod of iron*
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s | vessel.”

¹⁰ **Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;*
be warned, O rulers | of the earth.**

¹¹ Serve the | LORD with fear,*
and rejoice with | trembling.

^{12c} **for His wrath is quickly | kindled.*
Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in Him.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

The antiphon is repeated.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



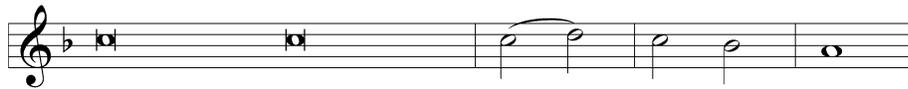
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



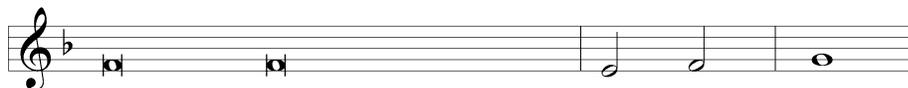
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1:1-5

P The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, chapter one.

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalms 117:1-2a; 96:8

The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.



¹ Praise the LORD, all | nations!*

Extol Him, all | peoples!

^{2a} For great is His steadfast | love toward us,*

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.

⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due His name;*

bring an offering, and come in- | to His courts!

EPISTLE

Romans 6:1-11

P The Epistle is from Romans, chapter six.

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴We 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.

⁵For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Alleluia. You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Mark 1:11b (NKJV)



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:4–11

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the first chapter.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes He who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when He came up out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased."

☐ This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

☐ **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY: Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered

LSB 404

1 Je - sus, once with sin - ners num - bered, Had no blem - ish
2 John con - fessed Him as the Sav - ior— "Look, the sin - less
3 This the bap - tism that our Sav - ior Great - ly longed to
4 Je - sus, once with sin - ners num - bered, Full o - be - dience
of His own; In the wa - ters of the Jor - dan
Lamb of God!" Yet he dared not loose the san - dals
un - der - go; This the crim - son cleans - ing need - ed
was Your path; You, by death, have con - se - crat - ed
His true worth and work were shown: Heav - en o - pened
Of the One God's love had shod. Oh, how fair the
So the world God's love might know; This the mis - sion
Wa - ter in this sav - ing bath: Dy - ing to the
and the Spir - it There de - scend - ed like a
feet of Je - sus, Bring - ing news of peace to
of Mes - si - ah As He stepped from Jor - dan's
sin of Ad - am, Ris - ing to a life of
dove, As the Fa - ther's voice re - sound - ed,
us, Christ, the her - ald of sal - va - tion,
stream, He, the cho - sen and a - noint - ed
grace; We are count - ed with the righ - teous,
"Hear My Son, the One I love."
Preach - ing mer - cy from the cross:
Son of God, sent to re - deem.
O - ver us the cross You trace.

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SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

After the sermon, the pastor may say:

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C** Amen.

Philippians 4:7

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Kneel (or remain standing)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** In thanksgiving for the revelation of Jesus Christ to us in His wondrous Epiphany in the Jordan, and for the revelation of God's name and blessing to us in Holy Baptism, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all the baptized, that every morning we might die to sin and rise to newness of life, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the Holy Church, for Matthew and Michael and all pastors in Christ, that by the preaching of God's Word and the administration of His Holy Sacraments, God would give us steadfast faith and enliven in us His love that we might bear one another's burdens and show mercy to all, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the family, especially all Christian homes; for husbands and wives, that God would turn them toward one another in love; for fathers and mothers, that God would equip them for their holy duty as teachers of the faith; and for all children, that God would preserve them in the saving faith and sure promises of their Baptism unto life everlasting, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For Donald, Gavin, and all leaders and elected officials; for those who serve for the good of our people and for their protection; and for peace in our time and the peace which God alone can give, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the sick and those in need, that they know God's comfort; for all expectant mothers and their children, that they may have a safe delivery and then be brought to the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism; and for all who mourn, that they know God's peace, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all who come to the Lord's Supper, that the Holy Spirit preserve us from impenitence and unbelief, cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and clothe us with Christ's righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.

The prayers then continue:

- P** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:
- C** **Alleluia.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

- P** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:
- C** **To You, O Lord.**

The live-stream service concludes with the following:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- C** **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.**

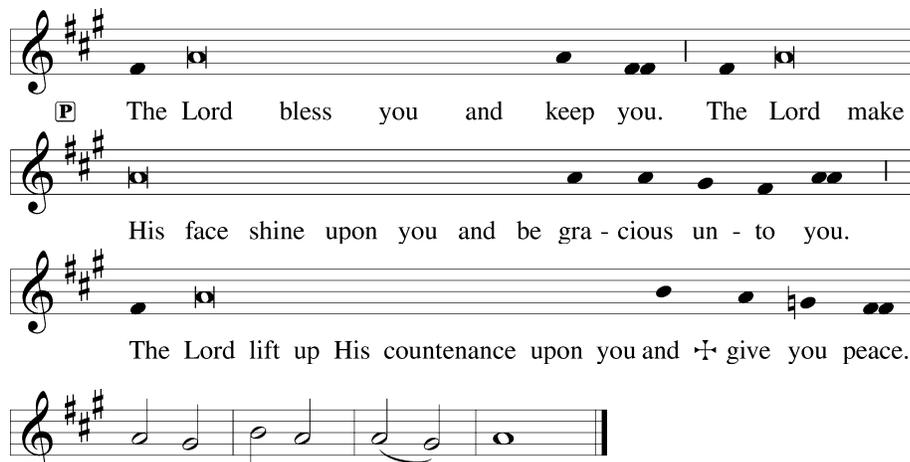
CONCLUDING COLLECT

- P** Let us pray.
Lord God, heavenly Father, You manifested Yourself, with the Holy Spirit, in the fullness of grace at the baptism of Your dear Son and with Your voice directed us to Him who has borne our sins, that we might receive grace and the remission of sins. Keep us, we beseech You, in the true faith. Since we have been baptized in accordance with Your command and the example of Your dear Son, we pray You to strengthen our faith by Your Holy Spirit and lead us to everlasting life and salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Stand

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make
His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C A-men, a-men, a - men.

The Divine Service continues with the Lord's Supper for those at the church. Please sing/read aloud the closing hymn and come by later for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.

CLOSING HYMN: To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord

LSB 406, sts. 1, 5-7

1 To Jor - dan came the Christ, our Lord, To do His
5 To His dis - ci - ples spoke the Lord, "Go out to
6 But woe to those who cast a - side This grace so
7 All that the mor - tal eye be - holds Is wa - ter
Fa - ther's plea - sure; Bap - tized by John, the Fa - ther's Word
ev - 'ry na - tion, And bring to them the liv - ing Word
free - ly giv - en; They shall in sin and shame a - bide
as we pour it. Be - fore the eye of faith un - folds
Was giv - en us to trea - sure. This heav'n - ly wash - ing
And this My in - vi - ta - tion: Let ev - 'ry - one a -
And to de - spair be driv - en. For born in sin, their
The pow'r of Je - sus' mer - it. For here it sees the
now shall be A cleans - ing from trans - gres - sion
ban - don sin And come in true con - tri - tion
works must fail, Their striv - ing saves them nev - er;
crim - son flood To all our ills bring heal - ing;
And by His blood and ag - o - ny Re - lease from death's
To be bap - tized and there - by win Full par - don and
Their pi - ous acts do not a - vail, And they are lost
The won - ders of His pre - cious blood The love of God
op - pres - sion. A new life now a - waits us.
re - mis - sion And heav'n - ly bliss in - her - it."
for - ev - er, E - ter - nal death their por - tion.
re - veal - ing, As - sur - ing His own par - don."

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✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth’ (Matt 5:38)”

These words of Christ have been rolling around my head ever since I heard of the confrontation and violence that took place in the United States Capitol last Wednesday (ironically on The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord, when “wise men” are remembered in the life of Christ).

In the fallout from that event, there are many voices calling for extreme punishment of the perpetrators and the enablers/instigators of the event. Enacting exemplary or punitive penalties is not without precedent in our country’s legal system (often utilized as punishment for especially egregious crimes and/or as a deterrent against similar misconduct).

On the one hand, I understand the thinking behind “making an example” of someone but on the other hand, it is fundamentally unfair (disproportionate), akin to vengeance as opposed to justice. How often have each of us, when we are hurt or angry or afraid, sought “the maximum penalty” for those who have wronged us? And if you succeeded in getting your revenge, did that actually help anything?

Consider the Treaty of Versailles from the end of the Great War (World War I): as Germany buckled socially and economically under the tremendous reparations imposed by that treaty, the ground was made fertile for the ascent of Adolph Hitler—and a greater evil arose to plunge again the world into war.

Of course, this brings me back to those words of Jesus that began this letter: “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” Here our Lord is making a subtle distinction between the Two Kingdoms (the Kingdom of the Left, ruled according to the Law and exercising the temporal “sword”; and the Kingdom of the Right, ruled according to the Gospel and exercising the forgiveness of sins and sanctification). In verse 38, Jesus is recalling the judicial principle of equity as laid out in Exod 21:24, Lev 24:20, and Deut 19:21 (to name but a few passages). In modern parlance we would say, “Let the punishment fit the crime.” Such should be the practice in our earthly kingdoms.

But in verse 39, Jesus addresses Christian people—we whose citizenship is in heaven (Phil 3:20)—saying, **“But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.”** It is an exhortation to live the Gospel—to forgive as we have been forgiven (and that, brothers and sisters, is perhaps the hardest thing any of us has to do: to live forgiving lives).

Let the magistrates adjudicate according to the Law—leave that to the Kingdom of the Left (but also pray that our judges and leaders may exercise their offices with wisdom and prudence). In our own lives, though we may be fearful or angry or pained, remember that you have been joined to Christ in Holy Baptism and “He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4b); let us be at peace in Jesus and, in the words of our Small Catechism (Lord’s Prayer): “sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.” By God’s grace, may this be so among us all.

This week we resume our study of the Psalms, picking up with Psalm 32, appropriately titled “Blessed Are the Forgiven.” Please join me at Noon on Tuesday for our “Zoom” Bible Study and tune-in on Wednesday at 7:00pm on Facebook for our Midweek Prayer Service.

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join by phone, call either “669-900-9128” or “346-248-7799” and enter 7603525715#
- The password for both (computer or telephone) is “12345”

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church's post office box: Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw