

Sunday, January 13, 2019
Baptism of Our Lord

PRELUDE

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Wilbur Held

***GATHERING SONG**

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

ELW 302

Brass: Phil Heeler, Liza Heeler, Sylvester Heeler, Phil Lewis

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

***GREETING**

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

G And also with you.

***GLORY TO GOD**

“Baptized in Water” v. 1

ELW 456

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P *Almighty God,*

G you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your

beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

ANTHEM

“It Is Well With My Soul”

John Ness Beck

Chancel Choir

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel’s exile in Babylon, God promises to bring them home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

¹But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my sight,

and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

⁶I will say to the north, “Give them up,”

and to the south, “Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made.”

Reflection

Who is the Lord? (verse 1) What does it mean to be redeemed? If you take something to a pawn shop, you can redeem it, that is, get it back, by paying the money the pawnbroker is charging you for it. Often it’s a lot more than what you got by pawning it. In what ways do the people to whom this was written (“O Jacob” and “O Israel,” and by extension, O you who read this centuries later) belong to the Lord? As I hear these words “Do not fear” in this context, I hear them as though a small child who feels in danger calls out to her parents and hears them

say, "Don't be afraid, I'm here with you!" How do you hear them? Are there times when you have really needed to hear these words? Who do you know now who needs to hear them? In what dangerous situations does God promise to be with us? (verse 2) How were the people redeemed? (verse 3) Why did God redeem the people? (verses 4-7) How are God's work of creating us and redeeming us related? (You may want to read the meaning of the First Article and the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed in Luther's Small Catechism, which you can find on p. 1162 in the cranberry hymnal.) Reflect on what it means to your faith that the God who has created us and so "owns" us is also the God who "owns" us by redeeming us. You may also want to reflect on when you have "passed through the waters." (verse 3) What does it mean for you to have been baptized in the name of the God who created you and the God who redeems you?

PSALM 29

- ¹Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.
- ²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**
- ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.
- ⁴**The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**
- ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;
- ⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**
- ⁷The voice | of the LORD
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.
- ⁸**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**
- ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**
- ¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

Reflection

This psalm is a psalm to God who is with us through the storms of life, and in fact, whose glory is shown in the storm. What images of the storm in this psalm speak to you most profoundly? How does this psalm help you through storms in your life? I often wish that God would take away the storms, and this psalm reminds me that although storms come, God is with me in them!

SECOND READING**Acts 8:14-17**

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Reflection

After the martyrdom of Stephen (see Acts 7), what happened to the church in Jerusalem? (See Acts 8:1-4) Who preached the Gospel in Samaria? (For who Philip is, see Acts 6:1-6.) Why did Peter and John go to Samaria? (verse 14) What did they do there? (verse 15) Why? (verses 16-17) How do you know that you received the Holy Spirit when you were baptized?

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*"Thy Word"** (sing refrain twice)

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.** (repeat)

GOSPEL*Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Reflection

In this text, we meet John the Baptist again (remember that we read some of this text during Advent). How did John prepare the way for Jesus? (verses 15-16) What did John tell them to expect when Jesus came to them? (verses 16-17) What happened when Jesus had been baptized? (verses 21-22) I have heard stories that in this congregation, there was once a wooden dove that came down to the baptismal font when there was a baptism. That's from this text in Luke. What is Jesus called when he is baptized? (verse 22) What does Jesus' baptism mean to us? How do we enter into the baptism of Jesus when we are baptized? In what ways are you "my Child, the Beloved" because of your baptism?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

"Living With Expectation"

Rev. Roger Lenander

SONG OF THE DAY

"Build Your Kingdom Here"

**Come set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now
We are Your church
We need Your pow'r in us

We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captives' hearts released
The hurt the sick the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause
We are Your church
We pray revive this earth**

Refrain

**Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here we pray**

**Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r
Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ**

We are Your church
We are the hope on earth *refrain*

***APOSTLES' 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 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!

***PRAYER SONG** *"Seek Ye First" vs. 1 before the prayer, vs. 2 after the prayer*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and its righteousness,
and all these things
shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door
shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Pour out your Spirit upon us and enliven us for mission. Draw us together in love that we may be one. Lead us in the way of your beloved Son. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the earth. Sustain oceans and seas, rivers and lakes, marshes and wetlands. Watch over dormant plants and hibernating animals as they rest in your care. Renew your creation and protect all creatures from harm. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the nations. Inspire leaders to work for the common good. Grant courage to those who put themselves at risk to protect others. Turn us away from violence and teach us to live in peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those in need. Protect children and vulnerable adults who depend on others to provide for their daily care. Uphold those who struggle with depression. Console the grieving and heal the sick *especially Jim, Jeff, Trina, Linda, Elaine, Lisa and her baby Lara*, and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Bless the newly baptized. Renew your children in the covenant of baptism.

Empower us by your loving Spirit to serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died (*especially*). Hold us safe in your arms of mercy and bring us with them into your promise of life eternal. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

G **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

"You Are Mine"

ELW 581

**"I will come to you in the silence,
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice,
I claim you as my choice.
Be still and know I am here."**

**"I am hope for all who are hopeless,
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night,
I will be your light.
Come and rest in me."**

Refrain

"Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine."

"I am strength for all the despairing,
healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see,
the lame will all run free,
and all will know my name." *Refrain*

"I am the Word that leads all to freedom,
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name,
embracing all your pain.
Stand up, now walk and live!" *Refrain*

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *(the last refrain)*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P God of all creation,

G all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!

***DIALOGUE**

P *The Lord be with you.*

G **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

G **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

G **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***PREFACE**

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.*

*And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, Holy, Holy
Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P *Gathered together in one baptism, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

C **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen!**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P *Come to the table. Feast on God's abundant life for you.*

***BLESSING**

P *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

C **Amen!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P *We thank you, O God,*

C **that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare,**

the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use your gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!

***BENEDICTION**

P *The God of glory dwell in you richly,
name you beloved,
and shine brightly on your path;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the **+** Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.*

C **Amen!**

***SENDING SONG**

"Baptized"

Refrain

**Baptized into the death of Christ
and raised again to new life.**

**Baptized into the death of Christ
and raised again to new life.**

**Down, down, down,
I was sinking deep in sin,
Killing me,
killing me from deep within.
He put me to death that day,
and the fam'ly of God
stood up to say, *refrain***

**Down, down, down,
in the water, down I went,
Lifted up**

in a brand new covenant.
They made the sign on my brow,
and I 'll do it again to
remember now. *refrain*

Sing, sing, sing
to the ones who have not heard,
We've been washed
in the water and the Word.
We'll sing with every breath,
"We will share his life like we've
shared his death." *refrain*

***DISMISSAL**

P *Go in peace. Christ is your light.*

C **Thanks be to God!**