

Baptism of our Lord

“Why Be Good?”

January 9, 2022

As We Gather

There’s a saying that goes like this: “God likes to forgive. I like to sin. Sounds like a good combination.” It’s possible to look at the free forgiveness in Christ, which is given not on the basis of our good deeds, and wonder, “What’s the point of being good?” In light of Christ’s mercy, why should we be good? In Romans 6, Paul points to an answer that is not rooted in God’s law or fear of punishment, but rather to the identity what we have in Christ through baptism.

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. As is our custom, we will also celebrate the Baptisms of all who were baptized at St. John’s in 2021.

Welcome

Celebration of Baptism

“Dearest Jesus, We Are Here” LSB 592

1 Dearest Jesus, we are here,
Gladly Your command obeying;
With this child we now draw near
In response to Your own saying
That to You it shall be given
As a child and heir of heaven.

2 Your command is clear and plain,
And we would obey it duly:
"You must all be born again,
Heart and life renewing truly,
Born of water and the Spirit,
And My kingdom thus inherit."

3 Therefore we have come to You,
In our arms this infant bearing.
Truly here Your grace we view;

May this child, Your mercy sharing,
In Your arms be shielded ever,
Yours on earth and Yours forever.

4 Gracious Head, Your member own;
Shepherd, take Your lamb and feed it;
Prince of Peace, make here Your throne;
Way of Life, to heaven lead it;
Precious Vine, let nothing sever
From Your side this branch forever.

5 Now into Your heart we pour
Prayers that from our hearts proceeded.
Our petitions heav'nward soar;
May our hearts' desires be heeded!
Write the name we now have given;
Write it in the book of heaven!

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

People: Amen.

The Baptism of Teagan Ryan Chagonjian

Baptism Remembrance

Pastor: Since last year's Baptismal remembrance, the following people were received into the family of God through Baptism. We invite them now to come forward and light their Baptism candles to symbolize the light of Christ that you are called to shine to all the world.

Nhu Gruenhagen
Myles James Mathison
Mia Le Gruenhagen
Madeleine Bresee

Pastor: When you were baptized, you were washed with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. God put His name upon you and called you to be a witness of His grace.

And so today, as we celebrate this gift and re-affirm this relationship, I ask, Is it your earnest intention to live your Baptismal identity: a redeemed child by His grace, a disciple by His calling, a witness to His name, and a priest to the nations?

People: Yes, with the help of God.

Pastor: As we see your light burning,

People: We are reminded to live always by the Light of Christ and to let His light shine on us, and in us, and through us.

Pastor: Let us pray

People: Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with the light of His grace to shine His light to all the world.

People: Amen.

Children Excused to Children's Church

Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

But now, this is what the LORD says—
he who created you, Jacob,
he who formed you, Israel:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
²When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
³For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I give Egypt for your ransom,
Cush and Seba in your stead.
⁴Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you,
I will give people in exchange for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
⁵Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bring your children from the east
and gather you from the west.
⁶I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’
and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’
Bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the ends of the earth—
⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—
⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Alleluia (LSB 205)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:15-22

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

¹⁹ But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother’s wife, and all the other evil things he had done, ²⁰ Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You O Christ!

Sermon

“Why be Good?”

Installation of Joy Dahl as Preschool Director

Offering

Prayers

Please add your prayer requests to the live chat

Thanksgivings

Pastor: O Lord, we praise You.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Petitions

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

St. John's People and Families

Lisa, Tyler, Jeron, Jakob, & Bryson Chaudhary

George Fleishmann

Debbie Kirkpatrick

Mike & Patte Quinn

Michael and Rachel Thomas

Jennifer, Blake, & Clara Bunker

Yannick, Carolina, Enzo, & Tiago Girardo

Tod, Jenny, & Amanda Kawachi

Ben, Sarah, Brooklyn, & Phoenix Perez

Brian and Liam Wood

The Service of Holy Communion

Communion Prayer

The Words of Institution

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

Communion

Pastor: Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

People: **Amen.** *(Take and eat)*

Pastor: Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

People: **Amen.**
(Take and drink)

Communion Hymns

“O Blessed Spring” LSB 595

O, Blessed Spring where Word and sign
Embrace us into Christ the Vine:
Here Christ enjoins each one to be
A branch of this life-giving Tree.

Through summer heat of youthful tears,
Uncertain faith, rebellious tears,
Sustained by Christ's infusing rain,
The boughs will shout for joy again.

When autumn cools and youth is cold,
When limbs their heavy harvest hold,

Then through us, warm, the Christ will move
With gifts of beauty, wisdom love.

As winter comes, as winters must,
We breathe our last, return to dust;
Still held in Christ, our souls take wing
And trust the promise of the spring.

Christ, Holy Vine, Christ, Living Tree,
Be praised for this blest mystery:
That Word and water thus revive
And join us to Your Tree of Life.

“To Jordan's River Came Our Lord” LSB 405

To Jordan's river came our Lord,
The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,
The God from God, the Light from Light,
The Lord of glory, pow'r, and might.

The Savior came to be baptized—
The Son of God in flesh disguised—
To stand beneath the Father's will
And all His righteousness fulfill.

As Jesus in the Jordan stood
And John baptized the Lamb of God,
The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove,
Descended on Him from above.

Then from God's throne with thund'rous
sound
Came God's own voice with words
profound:

“This is My Son,” was His decree,
“The one I love, who pleases Me.”

The Father's word, the Spirit's flight
Anointed Christ in glorious sight
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall
To save the world and free us all.

Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;
This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

Communion Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. His peace be with you.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith through our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn

"The Star Proclaims the King Is Here" LSB 399

1 The star proclaims the King is here;
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For He who offers heav'nly birth
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.

That He, of whom no sin was known,
Might cleanse His people from their own.

2 The eastern sages saw from far
And followed on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they trod
And by their gifts confessed their God.

4 And oh, what miracle divine,
When water reddened into wine!
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed
In streams that nature ne'er bestowed.

3 Within the Jordan's sacred flood
The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood

5 For this Thy glad epiphany
All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Offering

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

Memory Verse for This Week

We were therefore buried with Him through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 6:4

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Readers	Susan Clark, Ella Powers
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Communion Assistants	Bob & Kari Perna, Hayden Kirkman, Gerry Schweiger
Sound Technician	Bill Clark
Streaming Technician	Joshua Wright
Worship Preparation Team	Bob & Doris Klein, Betsy Gewirz
Ushers	The De Young Family
Projection Technician	Sarah Kramer
Children's Church	Sarah Santora, Michelle Roberts, Tyler Roberts