

# *Baptism of our Lord*

## **Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church**

*Affiliated with ELDONA*

Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America

*"Holding Forth the Word of Life"*

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## **Baptism of our Lord** **January 10, 2021**

Pastor Randy Moll 479-233-0081 / Deacon Marty Jackson 479-899-2807  
Ron Wellander - Music Director / Lois Wellander - Choir Director  
Lee Allen and Wolfgang McKenzie - Acolytes

### **Prelude and Lighting of the Altar Candles**

All congregants are seated and quietly preparing for worship.

**Liturgy: LSB 184** *"Divine Service, Setting Three"*

**Hymns: LSB #403** *"O Savior of Our Fallen Race"*

**LSB #405** *"To Jordan's River Came Our Lord"*

**LSB #642** *"O Living Bread from Heaven"*

**LSB #601** *"All Who Believe and Are Baptized"*

**Psalm:** *Psalm 85* For the Music Director. A Psalm of the songs of Korah.

1 LORD, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob. **2 You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin.** *Selah* 3 You have withdrawn all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger. **4 Restore us, O God of our salvation, and put away Your indignation toward us.** 5 Will You be angry with us forever? Will You draw out Your anger to all generations? **6 Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?** 7 Show us Your mercy, O LORD, and grant us Your deliverance. **8 I will hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints,** but let them not turn again to folly. **9 Surely His salvation is near to them who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.** 10 Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed. **11 Truth springs from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.** 12 Yes, the LORD gives that which is good, and our land shall yield its increase. **13 Righteousness shall go before Him and prepare a way for His footsteps.**

### Collect

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. **Amen.**

### Catechism Lesson: *The Apostles' Creed (Article 2)*

**158. Has Christ redeemed, purchased, and won you only?** No, me and all lost and condemned mankind.

298) Matt. 18:11. For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.

299) John 1:29. Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

300) 1 John 2:2. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

301) 2 Pet. 2:1. But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

### Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 42:1-7*

1 Here is My servant, whom I uphold, My chosen one, in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon him; he shall bring forth justice to the nations. 2 He shall

not cry out, nor lift up his voice, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed he shall not break, and the smoking flax he shall not quench; he shall bring forth justice faithfully. 4 He shall not be disheartened nor be discouraged, until he has set justice in the earth; and the coastlands shall wait for his law. 5 Thus says God the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread forth the earth and that which comes out of it, who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk in it: 6 I the Lord have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand, and will keep You and appoint You for a covenant of the people, for a light of the nations, 7 to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and those who sit in darkness out of the prison house.

**Epistle Lesson:** *1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

26 For observe your calling, brothers. Among you, not many wise men according to the flesh, not many mighty men, and not many noble men were called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty. 28 And God has chosen the base things of the world and things which are despised. Yes, and He chose things which did not exist to bring to nothing things that do, 29 so that no flesh should boast in His presence. 30 But because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, whom God made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord."

**Gospel Lesson:** *Matthew 3:13-17*

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 But John prohibited Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him. 16 And when Jesus was baptized, He came up immediately out of the water. And suddenly the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending on Him like a dove. 17 And a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

**Sermon:** *"The Baptism of our Lord"* Matthew 3:13-17

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Holy Communion** will be administered during our worship today. Since Christ Jesus offers and gives us to partake of His body and blood, given and shed for us upon the cross for the remission of sins, since the Bible calls upon us to examine ourselves

before partaking of Christ's Supper and since partaking of the altar is a profession of agreement with the doctrine proclaimed among us, we practice "closed communion" and ask that only communicant members of this congregation, or of congregations affiliated with ELDoNA, who have examined themselves come forward to partake of the Lord's Supper (cf. 1 Cor. 11:23ff.; 10:16ff.). Any others desiring to commune with us are asked to speak to the pastor about receiving instruction and becoming a member of the congregation by a public profession of faith.

**Members desiring the Lord's Supper** but not comfortable attending services during the COVID-19 pandemic may call Pastor Moll at 479-233-0081 or email him at [pastor@goodshepherdrogers.org](mailto:pastor@goodshepherdrogers.org) and he will arrange a time to bring the Sacrament to them.

**Online Services** will continue each week via Facebook Live and with recorded YouTube videos posted on the church website after the service. The bulletin is emailed to members and made available online. In addition, devotionals and sermon summaries are also available on the church website.

**Midweek Bible Study** will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 13 via Google Meet.

**Church Council** will meet via Google Meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

### ***The Baptism of our Lord*** ***Matthew 3:13-17***

What if Jesus were to walk into our church today and ask to be baptized? What would we say?

After all, Baptism is a means of grace whereby God offers and gives forgiveness of sins to sinners for the sake of the new covenant established by Jesus' blood, shed upon the cross for the sins of the world! Cf. Heb. 9:11-15; 8:7ff.

John baptized those who came to him confessing their sins and seeking God's pardon and forgiveness for the sake of the atoning sacrifice of the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (cf. Matt. 3:1ff.; Mark 1:4-5; Luke 3:1ff.; John 1:29). And, on the Day of Pentecost, Peter urged his hearers to "repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

And Jesus? He was and is sinless! He "was in every sense tempted like we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15). "He is holy, innocent, undefiled, separate from sinners, and is higher than the heavens" (Heb. 7:26). "He committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth" (1 Pet. 2:22; cf. Isa. 53:9).

With John the Baptist, I would have to say, "I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" (Matt. 3:14). And, yet Jesus did come to John and was baptized of him in the Jordan River. He told John, "Let it be so now, for it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15). Then John permitted Jesus to be baptized.

Why did Jesus come to be baptized by John? He didn't need to repent of sin! He didn't need God's forgiveness! But God did command and establish Baptism as the sign and sacrament by which one becomes a party and partaker of the new covenant He was putting in place by means of the atoning sacrifice of His Son (cf. 1 John 2:1-2; Heb. 10: 19ff.; Gal. 3:26ff.; Matt. 28:18-20).

And it was fitting — to fulfill all righteousness — that our Substitute, our Savior, be baptized that He might associate Himself with us, taking our place under the Law to fulfill it for us and then bearing upon the cross the full and just punishment for our sins and the sins of the entire world of sinners. It was necessary to establish the new covenant, and to offer to all who partake of it through Holy Baptism the forgiveness of sins and life eternal which Christ purchased and won for all when he suffered and died upon the cross.

Luther writes of Jesus' Baptism: "Why does He come and seek Baptism, as there is no sin and uncleanness in Him which Baptism would remove? That will be a blessed Baptism. John here is getting a sinner who in His own person has no sin, and yet is the greatest sinner, that has and bears the sin of the whole world. For this reason He permits Himself to be baptized and confesses with this action that He is a sinner. However, not for Himself, but for us. For He here takes my place and thy place and stands in our stead who are sinners, and since all, especially the arrogant saints, do not want to be sinners, He must become a sinner for all; He assumes the form of our sinful flesh and complains, as many psalms testify, on the cross and in His passion, of the weight of the sins which He bears" (Luther, 7, 691; 11, 2130).

In another reference, Luther writes: "Jesus says: ...If that shall be performed that the poor sinners may come to righteousness and be saved, you must baptize Me. Because for the sake of sinners I have become a sinner, must therefore do what God has charged the sinners to do, in order that they may become just through Me" (Luther, 13, 1575; 11, 2139).

And so, our Savior took on human flesh and blood and joined Himself to us that He might be our Substitute and redeem us. Because Jesus was baptized and then went to the cross to pay the price for our sins, all who believe and are baptized receive God's pardon and forgiveness, a place in God's eternal kingdom, by means of Holy Baptism.

In Baptism, we who trust in Christ have our sins washed away in Jesus' shed blood and, as Christ was raised up from death, we are given God's Spirit and new life in Christ Jesus!

And what happened when Jesus was baptized? We read in Matthew 3:16-17: "And when Jesus was baptized, He came up immediately out of the water. And suddenly the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending on Him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"

When Jesus came up out of the waters of the Jordan, the heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended upon Him like a dove. And a voice came from God the Father in heaven, saying,

“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Thus, we have the entire Trinity — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — present and participating in Jesus' Baptism. So also, in our Baptisms, we are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19). Though the minister applies water, He does so not in his own name or even in the name of the church he serves. The waters of Holy Baptism are applied in the name of the Triune God, for God Himself accomplished our salvation.

The Father sent His only-begotten Son into the world to redeem us and be a perfect sacrifice to atone for our sins. The Father and the Son give to us the Holy Spirit, who regenerates us, bringing us to faith in Christ Jesus, and washes away our sins in Jesus' blood, making us children of God and heirs of eternal life through faith in our Savior (cf. John 3:3-6; Gal. 3:26ff.; Tit. 3:3-7).

And John the Baptist, seeing the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus (cf. Heb. 1:9; Psalm 45:7; Ezek. 16:9), was assured that Jesus was and is indeed the Son of God and the Lord's Christ.

We read in John 1:32-34: “Then John bore witness, saying, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “The One on whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” I have seen and have borne witness that He is the Son of God.’”

So, what does all of this mean for you and for me? It, of course, means that Jesus is the eternal Son of God in human flesh, but it also means He associated Himself with you and me, He fulfilled all righteousness in our stead, and He bore on the cross the full punishment for our sins.

In His Baptism, Jesus joined Himself to us that he might be our Substitute and atone for our sins. And in our Baptisms, we are joined to Christ that His death might be our death and our sins be covered by His blood shed upon the cross for the sins of the world. And, in our Baptisms, we are joined to Christ that we might be credited with His perfect righteousness and be accepted as children of God through faith in Christ, our Savior!

God grant to you through faith in Your Savior the blessings of Holy Baptism — forgiveness for all your sins, a new birth and life worked in you by the Holy Spirit, and eternal life in Christ's everlasting kingdom.

*O gracious God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — we thank You for the blessings made our own in Baptism. Keep us in the true and saving faith, joined to Christ our Savior through Baptism, unto life everlasting. Amen.*