

Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 2021

Streams of Grace

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Winchester, Virginia



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God to worship.

WELCOME AND OPENING VOLUNTARY

Sonata

Beethoven

GATHERING HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW # 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, Your word a - lone
hope, man - y de - spair. Make us your bread,
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your build - ing,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your ser - vants
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

GENESIS 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then 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.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

ACTS 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John’s baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL**MARK 1:4-11**

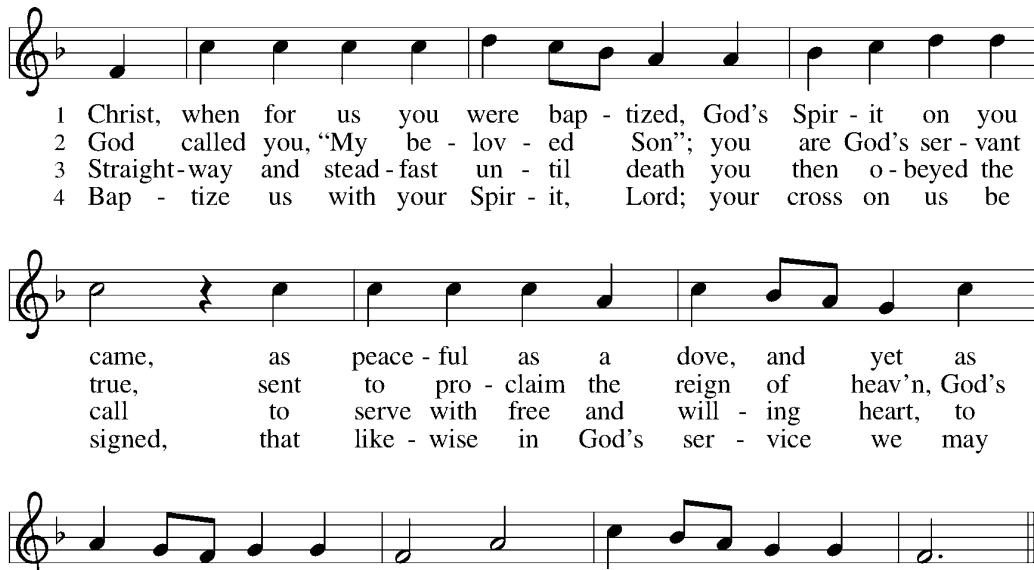
Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 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 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. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON**The Rev. Martha Miller Sims****HYMN OF THE DAY*****Christ When For Us You Were Baptized*****ELW # 304**

1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - obeyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be

came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may

ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
give your life for all, to give your life for all.
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561

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AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Andrew Bushnell Rayburn and Matthew James Marsden

All are invited to participate by responding in the bold print. Part of the service was recorded separately for safety.

Introduction and Presentation

Profession of Faith

We ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Affirmation

Each youth is invited to make promises to continue in the covenant God made with them in holy baptism. Then the congregation is invited to promise support and prayer to each.

People of God, speaking on behalf of the whole church, do you promise to support **Andrew / Matthew** and pray for him in his life in Christ? If so, answer, We do, and we ask God to help and guide us. **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Andrew / Matthew stands and faces the assembly.

Let us rejoice with this brother in Christ.

Andrew, we rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Gifts are given to each youth from the congregation in celebration of affirmation of baptism.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

*We give thanks for those who have served as shepherds of the faith for Andrew and Matthew in their lives, parents, grandparents, older brothers, their confirmation teachers, **Bob Thomas, Emily Thomas, Christie McKee, Dave Sims and T Shafferman**, Sunday School Teachers, youth group chaperones, and pastors.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

Merciful God, we pray for the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim forgiveness of sins and your love for all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world and their leaders, for laborers who work during both day and night, and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their strength wisely in the service of justice and the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need of healing of body, mind and spirit, and those who accompany them, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for all who suffer, especially Mary, Vicki, Bob, Jan, Karen, John, Fred, Donna, Jane, Bill, Brian, David, Jeff, Shawn, Jandee, Jim, Pete, Patty, all affected by COVID-19, and those we name now.... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As we continue to endure the pandemic into this new year, we pray for those who are under great stress as they serve on the front lines providing help for others, medical personnel, first

responders, chaplains, funeral home employees, and all caregivers. We pray for health and strength for them and their families. We pray for *Dick, Scott, Lisa, Sheila, Rick, Julie, Dixie, Courtney, Nikki, Patty, Chris, Xavier, Cheryl, Cee Ann, Eileen, Joe, Patrick, Linda, Sheila, Joe, Christie, Maurade, Vicki, Cathy, Steve, Christopher, Christa, Becky, Gail, Deanna, Bill, Shanthi, Stephen, Anna, Ron, Becky, Alexis, Jim, and Keith*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the congregation as we continue to gather together from our homes through YouTube, Zoom, email, phone calls and notes. Guide the ministry of our Congregation Council as they resume their work today in this new year in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Help us to be faithful and imaginative as we work. We pray for students and educators returning to school, in-person or virtually, and for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Protect and strengthen them. Give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, and pray that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations. We pray for comfort for all who are grieving the death of loved ones, especially the family and friends of *Joseph Mattaino*. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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

Offering and Offertory

There Shall a Star from Jacob

Grace Lutheran Virtual Choir

Felix Mendelssohn

*Gifts may be made electronically by scanning the QR code with a cell phone camera. A contribution may be made to the general fund for congregational ministry, or by using "special appeal" designation you may contribute to the **Christmas Offering Outreach Fund** (gifts received benefit Winchester community programs). Checks may be made payable to the church and mailed to: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 26 W. Boscawen Street, Winchester, VA 22601.*



SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God, the creator, strengthen you; Jesus, the beloved, fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ⁺ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN

Baptized and Set Free

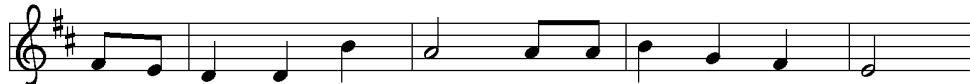
ELW # 453



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
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CLOSING VOLUNTARY

March of the Israelites

Costa

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PREACHER
ORGANIST
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CO-ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS, VIRTUAL CHOIR
LECTOR
INTERCESSORY PRAYER LEADER
DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRIES
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Jonathan M. Boynton, Pastor
Martha Miller Sims, Pastor
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Next Sunday, January 17, 2021, is the Second Sunday after Epiphany. The readings are: 1 Samuel 3:1-20, Psalm 139:1-6, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 and John 1:43-51.