



## Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 2021

# Welcome to St. John

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

[www.stjohnbluebell.org](http://www.stjohnbluebell.org) [www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell)

Nursery School website: [www.stjohnsns.com](http://www.stjohnsns.com)

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*Our Council Members are listed on our website.*

*Celebrating 250 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2019.*



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

# Order for Worship

Prelude ~ "My Son, the Beloved"

Quartet

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

And as he came out of the water, he saw the heav'ns,  
the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved;  
with whom I am well pleased."  
"My Son, the Beloved."

Music: David Blackwell

Text: Mark 1:9-11

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

C: **Amen.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

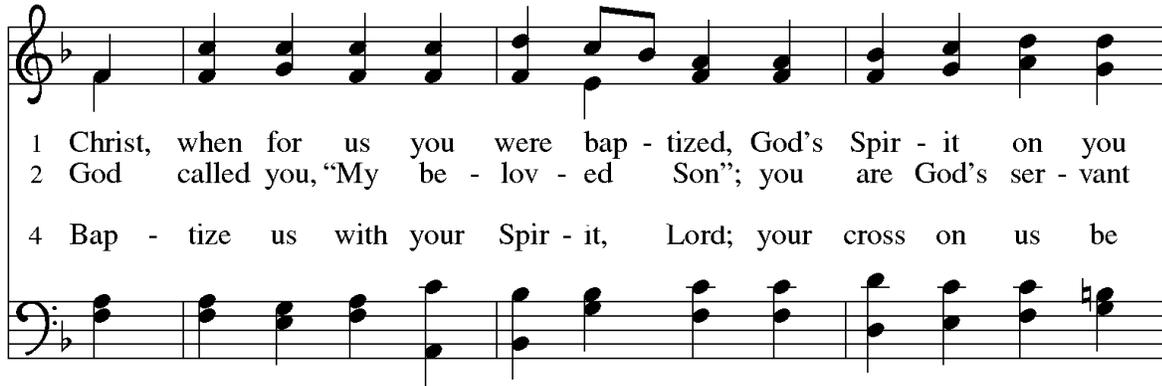
P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

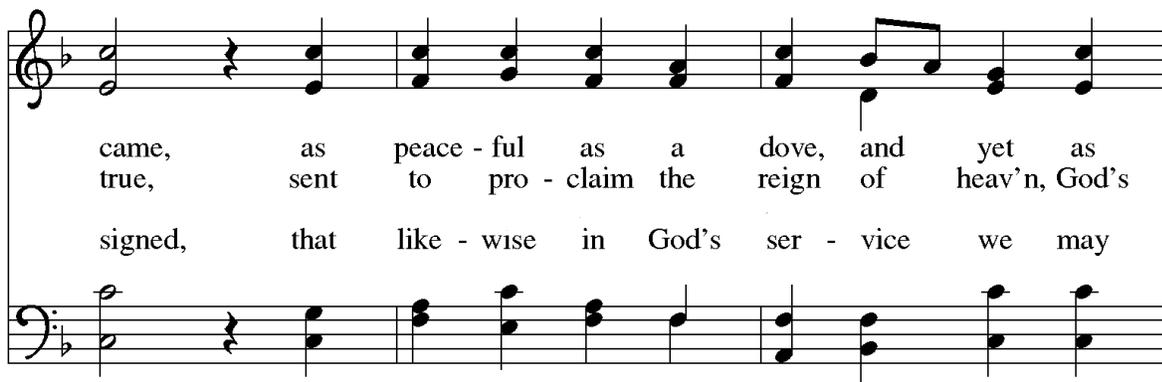
We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.  
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.  
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

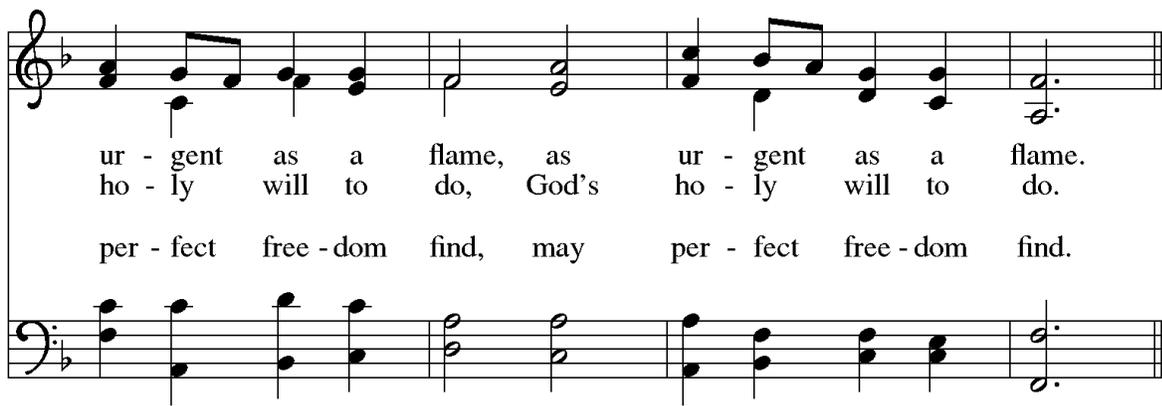
# Gathering Hymn ~ "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"



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  
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  
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.  
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  
Text © 1985 The Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

## Greeting

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

## Children's Message

## Word

### First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

A: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the 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. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God 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.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29

ANTIPHON

Psalm 29: 3a



*Organ:* *Everyone:*

The voice of the Lord is up - on the wa-ters.

*Choir:* The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

**ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON**

*Choir:* The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon; the voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON**

*Choir:* The 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!"

**ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON**

*Choir:* The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore. The LORD shall give strength to his people; the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

**ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON**

Gospel: Matthew 1: 4-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And 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. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And 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. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Manke

*Following a time of silence for reflection, the assembly may rise.*

Hymn of the Day ~ “When Jesus Came to Jordan”



1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John,  
2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,  
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;



he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.  
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.  
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond-age break.



He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,  
So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,  
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:



to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.  
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.  
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

## Apostles' Creed

A: *Together, let us confess our faith:*

**C: 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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

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

*A brief silence.*

A: For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, let us pray.  
**Have mercy, O God.**

A: For the waters of your creation: the drinking water (especially in Flint), the water that fuels manufacturing, the water that transports, the water that brings life to crops and people; for Wissahickon Creek and the Schuylkill River, let us pray.  
**Have mercy, O God.**

A: For our nation: Guide our leaders, our people, and our institutions in ways of peace and justice. Grant mercy, not hate. Grant patience, not ego. Grant your wisdom that we might know how to further our society in your peace. For calm, we pray.  
**Have mercy, O God.**

A: For the sick and those who provide medical care, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for all who suffer. We pray especially for Alethia, Martyne, Kate, Ed, Maria, Cheryl, Susan, John, Martin, Jenny, Scott, Adina, Kathy, John, Eric, Tom, Jack, Jon, Sue, Lauren, Bill, Dave, Gladys, Dylan, Randy, Dorothy, Judy, Jim, Gerry, Hadley, Robert, Abby, Laura, and Donna, that God may shower them with compassion, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

A: For the congregation gathered here, for students returning to school, for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

A: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

A: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

Anthem~ "The Baptism Carol"

Quartet

The sinless one to Jordan came,  
To share our fallen nature's blame;  
God's righteousness he thus fulfilled,  
And chose the path his Father willed.  
Uprising from the waters there,  
The voice from heav'n true witness bear  
That Christ, the Son of God, had come  
To lead his scattered people home.

Above him see the heav'nly Dove,  
The sign of God the Father's love,  
Now by the Holy Spirit shed  
Upon the Son's anointed head.  
How blest that mission then begun  
To heal and save a race undone!  
Straight to the wilderness he goes  
To wrestle with his people's foes.

Dear Lord, let those baptized from sin,  
Go forth with you a world to win:  
And send the Holy Spirit's pow'r  
To shield them in temptation's hour.  
On you may all your people feed,  
And know you are the Bread indeed,  
Who gives eternal life to those  
That with you died and with you rose.

Music: Donald Busarow  
Text: G. B. Timms

### Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*During our time away, we will not be passing the offering plates. We are grateful for all who are able to continue their support of St. John. There are three ways to share tithes and offerings:*

*1. Simply giving - You can arrange for a regular gift (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to be deducted from a bank account. Please contact Marcie Godby, our bookkeeper, to arrange for this ([stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com)).*

*2. You may go to St. John's website, <https://www.stjohnbluebell.org/>, and under "Quick Links" hit the "Online Giving and Donations" button.*

*3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).*

*Take a moment and reflect on the gifts we have received – even in these difficult days.*

Voluntary~ "O Living Breath of God"

Franklin Ashdown

# Offertory Hymn~ "O Living Breath of God"



- 1 O liv-ing Breath of God, wind at the be-gin - ning up-on the wa - ters;
- 2 O liv-ing Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth a - mong us;
- 3 O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing us to life through bap-tis-mal wa - ters;



- O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing the cre - a - tion to won-drous birth:  
O liv-ing Breath of God, who to the cre - a - tion gives life a - new:  
O liv-ing Breath of God, sigh-ing with cre - a - tion for free-dom's birth:



Come now, and fill our spir - its; pour out your gifts a - bun - dant.



O liv-ing Breath of God, Ho-ly Spir-it, breathe in us as we pray.

Text: Osvaldo Catena, 1920-1986; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923  
Music: VÄRVINDAR FRISKA, Swedish folk tune  
Tr. © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

## Offertory Prayer

**P:** O God,  
receive these gifts as you receive us:  
like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.  
Nourish us anew in your tender care,  
and empower us in faithful service  
to tend to others with this same love,  
through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

**C:** **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Benediction

**P:** God the creator strengthen you;  
Jesus the beloved fill you;  
and the Holy Spirit the comforter † keep you in peace.

**C:** **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn~ “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;  
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
 and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;  
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
 man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,

an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,  
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

## Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude~ “Flourish on *King’s Lynn*”

Wayne Wold

Additional music links:

**“The Blessed Son of God”**

[https://youtu.be/-L\\_Yc-rWHvQ](https://youtu.be/-L_Yc-rWHvQ)

**“Baptized and Set Free”**

<https://youtu.be/VNB6B2FvQN0>

**“We Three Kings”**

<https://youtu.be/5jNrGqbSdM8>

## Assisting with Worship

Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Prayers of Intercession

Apostles’ Creed

Quartet

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker

Betsy Norton

Vande Berg family

Makayla Wood

Deborah Swider, Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen,

Kurt Klinger-Wilensky, Jonathan Oehler

**A Note about Simply Giving...** If anyone is changing their simply giving amount starting January 2021, please email Marcie @ [stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com). The pledge cards do not initiate a change in your simply giving amount.

Happy New Year!

While many things in our world have changed since just a year ago, one thing has not: there are many people in our community that are in great need and we can all help.

The good news is that not only can you help your neighbors, but St. John is also going to make it easy for you! We will be having our 3rd annual Martin Luther King Day of Service this year, home based of course, but no less impactful.

How impactful? Last year we had over 300 people participate in our in-person day of service, which helped over 1000 people in need. This year's in-home event could be even bigger since we have no space limitations on how many can participate. There are 12 different projects for all ages you and your family can participate in to serve those in need in our community.

How did the St John MLK day of service begin? Four years ago, while sitting at our Thanksgiving dinner table, my sister was talking about a MLK Day of Service event she was Chairperson of at her church (Springfield Presbyterian Church). My wife Kathy asked if she could come see what they were doing. Kathy invited Monka Bontempo and Carol Weidler to attend with her. What they saw there impressed them, and they realized that what Springfield Presbyterian was doing, could be replicated at St John. They set to work to make it happen the next year. Our first MLK Day of Service had over 200 participants serving over 800 people. Our own Boy Scout Troop 98 prepared and served over 180 hot meals that day.

For this year's event, the committee has carefully reached out to organizations that serve those in need, to determine how best we can help. The committee then developed projects that could be done at home. The projects mostly involve assembling "kits" of items together or making things that are needed by the communities the organizations serve. You will need to purchase the materials or components you need. Most, if not all, can be purchased on-line. There are 12 projects to choose from, for all ages and budgets. You choose how many items you and your family would like to complete.

On **Martin Luther King Day, Jan 18**, our volunteers will be ready for you to drop off your completed projects at St John from 11am-1:30pm under the portico. They will then deliver them to the organizations. You can start your projects NOW!

The full list of project choices with items needed to purchase, and information on the organizations is here: <https://www.stjohnbluebell.org/mlk-day-2021.html>

We ask that everyone PLEASE register so we know how many volunteers we will need to receive dropped off completed projects and deliver them to the benefitting organizations. <https://forms.gle/6P4BWxhyTgwiKeaXa>

The St. John MLK Day of Service has not only served many in our community, but also raised awareness in our area of the unique ways St. John looks to be a leader in service and spreading the love of Christ. We look forward to you and your family to be a great part of this year's event. Please tell others you know, who in these times, may also want to help. The event is open to anyone. Again, you can start your projects now. If you need additional information or assistance, please contact Monika Bontempo at: [Mbontempo2015@gmail.com](mailto:Mbontempo2015@gmail.com)

Thank you!

Larry Erdman





