



Time after Epiphany

OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday, January 10, 2021



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027
425-392-4169

SERVICE OF THE WORD: TIME AFTER EPIPHANY

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jiyoung Lee

WELCOME

Pastor Jim Kruse

GREETING

PM: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; a light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright
Text & Music: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608

Cantor

O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light, aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's line, King David's son,
Our Lord and Savior, you have won our hearts to serve you only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!

Lord, when you look on us in love,
At once there falls from God above a ray of purest pleasure.
Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood refresh our souls with heavenly food.
You are our dearest treasure!
Now, though daily earth's deep sadness may perplex us and distress us,
Yet with heavenly joy you bless us.

Let your mercy warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
For you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. Holy God,

C: 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.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5

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.

AM: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

Acts 19:1-7

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.

AM: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

Cantor

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947; Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893

Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:4-11

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."

PM: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Out of Water and Spirit: Life

Pastor Jim Kruse

There is an ancient baptismal ceremony that was practiced by the early church that is very different than today. It comes from a time when most of the people being baptized were adult converts to the faith. It was a time when baptismal rites took place only once a year, at the Easter Vigil, the night before Easter Sunday. During the season of Lent, these candidates for baptism completed a study in the teachings of the faith. And then, in the middle of a lengthy service, this class of adults were baptized like:

Just before midnight, the baptismal candidates stepped forward and were taken through a small door and dark hallway, into the Baptistry. It was a cold, dark room constructed of wood siding. In the middle of the room there was a large, cross-shaped pool of water sunken

into the floor. There in the dark, one-by-one, each person being baptized was stripped of his or her clothing, and carefully led into the water. Positioned outside the baptistery were members of the congregation who would hoot and howl and bang on the sides of the building with rods and chains, trying their very best to scare the devil out of the person being baptized inside. Inside, a clergyperson would take the candidate down into the water three different times, each time holding them under for several seconds so they would come up gasping for air. Following this near drowning, the whole group would be led through the dark, still naked, shivering, and dripping wet, through a large door, which entered into the worship space, which had been filled with burning candles. The bright light would temporarily blind these poor souls, while they were wrapped in a warm white robe, and the entire congregation would greet them with a celebration of music, laughter, and praise.

A person does not soon forget an event like that. The baptismal event was designed to leave a lasting impression. It was designed to symbolize the act of drowning and coming up to new life. It was designed to symbolize dying and resurrection. It was designed to be a second birth, to recreate what the frightening event of the first birth, when each one of us breaks out of our dark watery capsule, and is greeted by the light of the world, and loving caregivers.

This baptismal ritual was designed in a way that captured the understanding of God, the cosmos, and the dangers and fears of everyday life during that time in history. Spiritual forces were not viewed as separate threats from physical forces. All illness, all storms, all violence was mixed with the forces of unseen spirits. A baptism was designed to show that you had been given the protection of God's "holy spirit," which was more powerful than all the other spiritual dangers of life. You were now safe under God's protection and rule.

This is the same view of the way the world works that is behind the First Lesson for today from Genesis. These few verses represent a human being's best effort to capture what it might have been like at the beginning, of creation before God started to create. All the writer of Genesis can say about God at the time is that God was a kind of singular powerful source, who moved like a wind across the dark, murky, formless blob of cosmic matter, that existed before anything existed.

God's first act, God's first creation, was to use this force to whip up a whole bunch of "something" out of nothing. And then, in order to make sense of the "something" God has created, God lights it up, and then God gives it some order—separating the stuff that is in the light from the stuff that is in the dark. God's first creation, God's most powerful creation, is simply to create, nothing more. And then to keep what is created from falling back into the murk mess from which it came.

As creatures of God's powerful creative act, we live as the constant, everyday beneficiaries of God's tireless efforts on our behalf. Most of the time, from moment to moment, from hour to hour, from day to day, what we are experiencing is not the ordinary, mundane, common life it looks like. But what we are experiencing is God, working at what God does best, making sure everything keeps working.

Our world is still the same frail world that it was when the creation story in Genesis was first conceptualized, and it is still the same frail world that it was when people were being baptized the way I described a few minutes ago. Maybe we have gotten a lot more sophisti-

cated at figuring it out what is going on, but the evidence that the creative power of God is keeping everything together is still evident, if we have the eyes to see it.

In the first few days after Christmas, just before New Year's Eve, I playing a little rough with our Golden Retrievers, and I smacked down on Eli's teeth so hard that it scaped a piece of skin off my hand. The knuckles got red and swollen, and the middle knuckle started to bleed. But I wasn't too concerned. I did not rush off to the hospital. All I had to do was to wash it off and wait. And now, about a week later, the wound is all but gone. The skin is smooth. There is no pain. This may all sound like simple, everyday stuff. But it is not. It is really the result of very complicated, very sophisticated biochemical processes that human beings can only barely understand and have never been able to duplicate themselves without the basic building blocks of life built into the fabric of creation of God. Every moment of every day, the Spirit of God is at work, moving over the face of the deep, whipping up new life.

What baptism does for us is to make a tiny tear in that simple looking, yet complicated, created order and gives us a glimpse of what God is up to. Mark tells us in this Gospel for today that, as Jesus is coming up out of the water, he sees the heavens "torn apart," and the spirit of God appearing like a bird in the sky. And the bird started to speak like a human being. "You are my Son," the bird says. "You are loved, and I am pleased." It is a good thing.

Baptism, any baptism, Jesus' baptism, happens so that we will be able to see with our own frail human eyes, and hear with our own frail human ears that God is present, and that God is doing the things that God does best: Healing those who get sick, and comforting those who are not healed. Keeping things put together, and raising up new life when things fall apart.

The powerful created order of things gets damaged and broken every day. Much of the things that the ancient people attributed to evil spirits we call nature or illness or accidents, but they still threaten to control our lives. People still give into the instincts and urges of self-promotion and self-preservation that bubble up from the human heart. They called this sin, and we do too. Most of the time the destructive forces of the cracks in creation are small or far away from us. This week, with violence against our workings of government it has been bigger than most of us have ever seen. And this year, with the outbreak of a deadly pestilence, it has come closer than we ever thought possible.

When God in Christ enters our world in human flesh, Jesus, the Christ of God takes on the fear, the trouble, and the brokenness of human life, any human life. And he lives that life out to its natural conclusion: death. But the amazing thing, the thing that captured people's attention, was that Jesus was more than just a frail human life. He embodied more than just the best and most faithful human response to the activity of God in the world. Jesus was that powerful creative activity of God, somehow brought into the defining limits of a human being. Jesus was the Spirit of God, mixed with the water of life, brought into physical matter for all the world to see. He was the Word of God in human flesh. His life, death, and resurrection from the dead, is God speaking his powerful Word as clearly as possible: "This is my world. I am loving and protecting you. You are my own dear child. And I am pleased as punch. It is a good thing."

God speaks and the sun comes up, day after day. And there is Day and there is Night.

And it is good. God speaks, and where there are open wounds, new skin appears, the body is restored. And it is good. God speaks, and where there was violence and fear of violence, a spirit of trust and peace calms the waters. And it is good. God speaks, and where there was deep sadness, joy jumps to life; where there is broken relationship, there is forgiveness; where there is despair, there is hope.

The world keeps its shape. And it is good. And we are amazed.

HYMN OF THE DAY

When Jesus Came to Jordan

Cantor

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000; Music: English folk tune

When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon but as the Sinless One.
He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.

He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation to die upon the cross.
So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man,
The hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.

Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make,
This very day invade us, and ev'ry bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most:
To share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

OFFERING

A new year has begun, and with it, God again refreshes the daily blessings of life and all that is needed to be sustained. Please open your hearts in gratitude to God as you help to financially support our ministry at Our Savior Lutheran Church.

OFFERING PRAYER

PM: God of abundance, all that we have is yours. Receive these gifts and all who gather at your table, for the sake of the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

As stated in the Ministry Site Profile being used to call the next pastor:

"As members of the body of Christ in this place and time, we are a welcoming congregation of people who gather to worship God, to share life together, to grow in love for each other and to be shaped by God's Word, with the purpose of living out God's love and being a sign of God's loving and forgiving presence in our community and world."

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth, that God's goodness is revealed through creation and faithful stewards care for all God has made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and their leaders, and especially for the people and leaders of the United States. In the wake of the violence of this past week, we pray for the safety of those who work tirelessly to establish peace and protect us from violence and harm, that God will inspire leaders to use their strength wisely and calm the unsettled hearts of those whom they lead. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 especially Sue, Stanley, Carol, Weatherly Inn residents and staff, Les, Mayah, Gail, Judy, Jerry, Mary, Ron, Carol, JD, Marlene, Nancy, communities across the country, Dave, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie, that God shower compassion. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. We continue to pray for those affected by COVID-19. Bring comfort to the families of those who have died; grant healing for those recovering; protect and sustain all care providers; guide those working to develop and distribute a vaccine; and sustain those who are facing financial uncertainty due to loss of income. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For what and for whom else do the people of God pray this morning?

[Here other intercessions may be offered.]

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

PM: Lord, remember us in your love as you teach us to pray:

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.

SENDING SONG

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

Cantor

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981; Music: Finnish folk song

O Lord, now let your servant depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory of your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the nations unto your holy hill,
The glory of your people, your chosen Israel;
Until the saints shall gather upon that shining shore,
Where Christ, the blessed daystar, shall light them evermore.

BLESSING

PM: May the love of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, fill your hearts and illumine your path. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Shall We Gather at the River — Robert A. Hobby

Jiyoung Lee

Serving in Worship:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Worship Leader: | Pastor Jim Kruse |
| Assisting Minister: | Shari Lundberg |
| Cantors: | Alice Lewis, Marc Montague |
| Organist: | Jiyoung Lee |
| Videographer: | Leslie Waltzer |
| Video Editor: | Dave Carlson |
| Banner: | Elaine Stamm |
| Bulletin Cover: | Craig Gillin |

Readings for next Sunday: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso, *Director of Worship & Music*
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*



Additional worship resources:

Reading: Psalm 29

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *Beautiful Savior*

Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; Music: Silesian folk tune

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at office@oslcissaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Sue Schmeichel and her medical team for successful surgery and recovery. (wife of Karen Hansen's cousin)

Roger Stanley strength and healing. (Alice Lewis)

Carol Harbolt peace and healing. (Ray Harbolt)

Weatherly Inn residents and staff (Ray Harbolt)

Les Gagnon peace and healing. (Kate Gagnon)

Mayah healing. (Connie Fletcher)

Judy Shaffer comfort and peace of mind. (Sandy Aldworth)

Jerry Nack healing and strength. (Kate Gagnon)

Mary healing, wholeness, comfort and a clear sense that God is in control. (Marilyn Carlson)

Ron Gerde healing for recent medical issues. (Brother to Bob Gerde)

Carol Johnson ongoing medical issues, and mourning the recent loss of her husband & her brothers. (Mary Fricke)

JD Golick diagnosed with stage 3 stomach cancer, completed one cycle of chemotherapy. (nephew to Patty Gerde)

Marlene Pickering discernment in medical decisions to alleviate pain. (Mary Fricke)

Nancy Cumming peace as she adjusts to her new home.

Safety and peace for communities being torn apart during these difficult times. (Karen Hansen)

Dave Carlson continued healing and following kidney transplant surgery.

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)

Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: **Henrik & Patty Christopherson** (Dianne Tanner); **Vern Lindquist**; **Marian James**; **Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur**; **Katie Moeller**; **Margot Inman**; **Ken Acker** (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson**; **Taufik Hidayut** (Ken Konigsmark); **Don**

Wilkinson (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas**; **Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland**; **Randi Strom**; **Jeanne Kuipers**; **John Pass**; **Florence Kinnune**; **Carol Harbolt**; **Sandy Aldworth**; **Jen Winslow**; **Larry Pruitt**.

Undergoing cancer treatment: **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: **Liz Kidd** (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson**; **Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

Expectant Mothers: **Alyssa Saavedra** (Cheryl Neeb); **Shawna McIntyre** (Cheryl Neeb)

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Beverly** (sister of Ashley Saunders); **Gail** (sister of Sandy Aldworth); **Mike Golick** (brother-in-law to Patty Gerde); **Ray Kruckenberg** (uncle of Dianne Tanner); **Tom Wiese** (Sandy Aldworth); **Talton Johnson** (husband of Carol Johnson); **Jean Stanley** (sister-in-law to Alice Lewis); **Delores "Dee" Bakamus** (Dar Boni)

Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms: **Mike** special ops, unexpectedly called up. (nephew of Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

Global Missions and Missionaries: Alexandra, Miriam, and Kati, recipients of our Global Missions Peru Scholarships. Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.