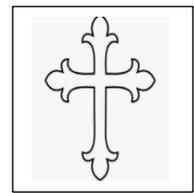


Perley Lutheran Parish
January 10th, 2021
First Sunday of Epiphany



Gathering Hymn: Beautiful Savior

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love thee, Truly I'd serve thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flowers of blooming spring;

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Welcome and Announcements

Prayers for our country

Confirmation numbers – please let me know if you have a child in confirmation

Kirkebo council at 9:45 this morning

Annual Congregational meetings moved to February

Help our Digital Light Shine – if you can't do go fund me you can drop check (go fund me in the subject line)

Continue to reach out if you need something

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,

Youi search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin-our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of +Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen**

Prayer of the Day

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, on God, now and forever. Amen

Psalm 29 (Read Responsively)

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. **Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.** The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. **The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.** The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. **He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.** The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.** The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!" **The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.** May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

First Reading Genesis 1:1-5

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.

Holy Gospel according Mark 1:4-11, **Glory to you O Lord**

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;^[d] with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message

Sometimes, when we meet a friend we may say, "What's new?" It's only been a couple weeks since Christmas, so if I were to ask you, "What's New?" you would probably have a lot to tell me about. (If time permits, allow the children to share.) I'm sure you get excited about getting

new things, like games or toys! (Show the new games or toys you brought, and let kids pass them around.) You've probably spent hours playing with the new toys you received for Christmas.

One thing I really enjoy is a new beginning. We are at the beginning of a new year. What an exciting time! It's a chance to start over. It's a time to try to do things better than we did last year.

(Ask the kids to share about something they want to have a new beginning with this year.)

Today, we'll talk about another new beginning. It's better than the beginning of a new year. It's the beginning of a new life; a new life in Jesus.

In the Bible, we read about a man called John the Baptist. John went all around the countryside in Judea telling people about a new beginning they could have. He said to repent. That means to ask God to forgive your sins, turn away from those sins, and try again. John baptized people who repented. He did it in the river Jordan. They were baptized to show the world that God had forgiven their sins. This was a new beginning for them. Even Jesus himself went to John the Baptist and was baptized by him.

We still baptize people today. (In one or two sentences, tell about your church's baptism traditions.) Now, that's what I call a new beginning!

Dear God, we thank you that Jesus who was without sin washes away our sins and gives us a new life. In Jesus' name, amen.

Message

Grace and peace to you from the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

This morning's Gospel is essentially the "rest of the story" from our message last week about John the Baptist and Jesus being the Light of the world. We are just a week into the New Year – and let's be truthful – 2021 has had its not so great moments already. We witnessed unbelievable actions in our nation's capital that made most if not all of us feel a sense of loss, a sense of violation and even a sense of disbelief. How could OUR country have things like this happen?? It's been a tough week. While 2020 is indeed over – a year of some really hard, disappointing, sad, lonely and fearful days – we cannot forget and let go of a hope and prayer that 2021 will indeed bring peace and unity.

Our passage today is also about newness – a hope for a better and new time. We all like new things – think about that amazing smell of a new car, the loving puppy breath of a new puppy friend, the smell of fresh paint as you update a room, the joy of all those great new gifts we got for Christmas – you get the picture. We feel better when we put on new clothes or get

a new hairdo. There's something that just makes us feel happy and better when we have a newness in our life. That's what Jesus' baptism brings – a new chapter in his life.

Jesus baptism brings a new dynamic to his ministry, new adventures and obstacles, new opportunities and of course, new opposition. While we can all accept that God became human and took on flesh and blood – humanness – in the person of Jesus, it's NOT easy for us to accept that Jesus is going to have to deal with the ugliness and the issues that we sometimes deal in our sometimes dark and evil world. One would think that the Son of God would and should lead a charmed and easy life. He led a sinless life, excelling in all he did and was never tempted or envious or jealous – unlike us, right?? So one would think that his life would be easy but I'm pretty sure that it wasn't nearly as easy – even early on – as we would think.

Jesus was born the son of a carpenter – not a lot of wealth in that business and born out of wedlock, remember. That was a curse in itself in those days for sure. Yes, his mother would've told him how all of this had taken place, how the angels appeared, how the shepherds came and spread the word, how the magi came bearing gifts, but none of that would really help that much. That wouldn't have stopped the shunning he probably received from young and old for his parents not being married at the time.

That's why this passage – what happened, how it happened, and WHY it happened – is so important in Jesus' life and how everything became new for him. God spoke to Jesus at the time of his baptism and what he said changed everything. God said *"You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."* It's this acknowledgement, this acclamation that He is what everyone has told him that changes things. He is the Son of God and therefore he begins to define himself that way – as God's chosen one, the anointed one. His life now had new meaning.

We don't know a lot about Jesus before his baptism – there isn't much written. We assume that's because there really wasn't too much that was worth noting. Certainly nothing worth writing down as there really isn't anything recorded in the early days. That all changes though when Jesus gets baptized. That's the day that Jesus' mission begins. The Spirit comes down upon him and sets him on his way to minister to the world. It's at this time when Jesus is focused, focused on proclaiming God's Word through his actions. This is the start of his healing, his raising, his providing and his teaching.

There are times in our own lives where we may wonder what we are all about. What are we really supposed to be doing with our lives? Times where we may be transitioning into something different. I remember when I was going through the time of discernment on going to seminary and becoming a pastor. I loved working in my churches and really felt drawn to the pastoral call but also was very comfortable in being a registrar for 25 years at the time and starting something new wasn't going to be easy. I know I made the right choices in starting things anew but I'm sure you can understand how scary and how doubtful I was at times during the process.

Think about how you maybe felt when you graduated from high school or college, or maybe when you switched jobs or retired. There's a definite question that ran through your mind I'm sure – "what next? What do I do now??" Times like this can make us question what our purpose is, make us wonder what our life is really about.

Like Jesus though, we too have been given a mission and we too received our mission when we were baptized. We took on a new nature, no longer average and definitely loved children of God. We became sons and daughters of God and he named us and claimed us as his own. He filled with the Holy Spirit and he too was and is well please with us. For us all things became new too at our baptism.

Through our baptism we were given a mission as the body of Christ – his hands and feet on the ground, his eyes and ears in the world – to make disciples of all nations. We have been given the task – no we have been given the privilege to share God's love and grace with others. It doesn't matter what situations come up in our lives, what distractions and temptations come our way, our calling still remains the same. Our core mission and everything else in our lives – our job, our families, our likes and dislikes, our past times and leisure activities – they all become an expression and part of our mission. Our baptism gave us too a mission that brought newness into our lives as well.

And what came next for Jesus? Well he was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit and threatened by wild beasts. He was tempted by Satan and ministered to by angels. Thankfully our baptism doesn't lead us in that same direction but we too will have new obstacles and challenges to overcome. We too though have the promise – just like Jesus had – that God will be with us in the person of the Holy Spirit that God will never leave us or forsake us. These new challenges provide us opportunities and challenges in our life that can also bring us new experiences of God's grace and love.

As we begin a new year, a new chance to be better at loving our neighbors and new opportunity to live out our mission, let's remember each new day can and should be a celebration that we are God's people. We are children of God, named and loved by Him and that we can rejoin in our mission and ministry. We can even give thanks for those challenges in our life – I know that may feel like a stretch – but those challenges draw us and bring us closer to him and give us more chances to experience the amazing grace and love of God.

We have been baptized, Jesus Christ was baptized, and all things are now new! Happy New Year. Amen!

Hymn of the Day: Special Music – Baptized – written by Zach Williams
In the name of the Father, the name of the Son, the name of the Spirit
You're washed by the blood. Buried with Christ. Raised in new life. Baptized

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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the people: (Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**)

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, Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**

For wilderness and water, wind and all living things on earth, that God's goodness is revealed through creation and faithful steward care for all God has made. Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**

For our nation and the nations of the world. For our leaders, our laborers and our peacemakers amid strife, may God inspire all people to use their strength wisely. Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are mourning as they deal with tremendous loss, we ask that you continue to send healing to those dealing with illness and recovery. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, like Jeff and Kirk, Brent & Lisa, Paxley and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts. Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who swells among us and be with us now as we say that prayer that 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.

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

Blessing

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

Sending Hymn: Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Though my best thought by day and by night, Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Dismissal – Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Mark Your Calendars:

Sunday, January 17th – Sunday Services 9am live streamed from Nora. Nora Council meeting at 9:45am.

Tuesday, January 19th – Joint Council meeting at 6:30pm, Nora.

Sunday, January 24th – Sunday Services 9am live streamed from Kirkebo.

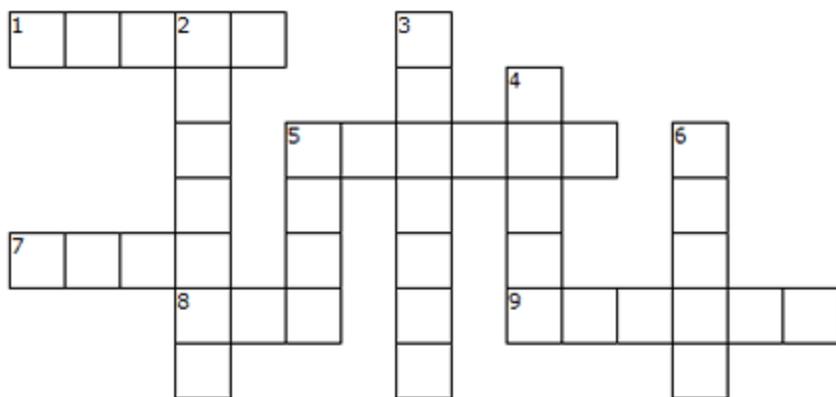
Pastor Michele Jenson: Phone: 701-261-0998 Email: mjenson001@luthersem.edu Web Page: www.perleyparish.org Email: perleyparish@gmail.com



The Baptism of Jesus

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:10-11

Based on Mark 1:4-11 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. What was heard when Jesus was baptized.
2. To admit that you have done wrong.
3. The river where Jesus was baptized.
4. The Spirit came down from heaven like a _____.
5. To break one of God's commandments.
6. To turn away from sin.

DOWN

1. To pardon for sins.
2. The liquid used to baptize someone.
3. Name of the man who baptized Jesus.
4. A sticky, sweet fluid made by bees.

FORGIVE	JORDAN	JOHN	DOVE	REPENT
CONFESS	WATER	SIN	VOICE	HONEY

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Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
H	S	D	W	C	Y	P	B	N	I	T	Q	M	U	X	J	E	F	O	R	V	L	G	Z	K	A

- 3-19-21-17 _____
- 20-17-7-17-9-11 _____
- 5-19-9-18-17-2-2 _____
- 8-26-7-11-10-24-17 _____
- 2-7-10-20-10-11 _____
- 2-10-9-2 _____
- 4-26-11-17-20 _____
- 1-17-26-21-17-9 _____
- 21-19-10-5-17 _____
- 1-17-26-21-17-9 _____

HEAVEN	REPENT	HEAVEN	VOICE	BAPTIZE
WATER	SPIRIT	CONFESS	SINS	DOVE

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Based on Mark 1:4-11 (NIV)



D V Q K S F O R G I V E J M V
 B X F P W G J B A P T I Z E D
 D H R P D T R O H O K X V S H
 K F H V N E I D R E W G W L J
 X Q A E T H J Y K D A L F S J
 V N P A N W T M R K A V F C Z
 H E W P J I J L M N R N E C W
 R Q O S N Q J O O C O Z D N Y
 C O N F E S S C L L J T Z D E
 Y J S J O H N U W O H O N E Y
 J F E I A H I S X T N E P P R
 I P G S N B T T Z H H M G E D
 Q F I B U S I S Z I W H V L I
 B P E O Z S F N D N T I I P N
 Z Y S P I R I T D G R W U U T

REPENT	JORDAN	FORGIVE	HEAVEN
CLOTHING	SINS	JESUS	WILD
LOCUSTS	WATER	RIVER	BAPTIZED
SPIRIT	CONFESS	HONEY	JOHN