



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *John the Baptist – Luke 3:1-20*

*January 20, 2019*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

Who are the important people in the world? Look at the headlines online or in a newspaper. Before talking about John the Baptist, the gospel writer Luke lists the important people of his day: the governor, the rulers, and the high priests. But then he says the word of God came to John the Baptist in the wilderness. John is a pivotal figure who stands between the Old Testament and the New Testament. And we see here that God will not be working through the normal channels of power and leadership.

*Welcome to worship today!*

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Nursery care is available during the service. Please see one of the ushers if you need more information.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

### Gathering Hymn Waterlife

(for music turn to Hymn 457 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Before I can remember, the covenant was sealed  
with Father, Son and Spirit, in water was revealed.  
The cleansing was for certain, with water and the Word;  
gentle words were spoken, in heaven they were heard.**

*Chorus* **They were singing water life, beginning life,  
water life, all my life, water life, Spirit life, water life.**

**2. A simple sweet beginning, a loving place to start:  
Christ began the singing that swells within my heart.  
His love became my calling, His life my ministry.  
His name is my adoption into His family. *Chorus***

**3. My hope and expectation for true community  
begins with resurrection, His death and life in me.  
His Spirit fills the body; His church through water sees  
promise for tomorrow, His water life in me. *Chorus***

Text and music: Handt Hanson, Copyright 1991 Changing Church Forum, Inc., CCLI #806124

### Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

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

**C: And also with you.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,  
who creates us and forms us,  
who redeems us and calls us,  
who unifies us and sends us.

**C: Amen.**

P: Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

(A moment of silence for reflection)

P: Mighty and loving God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.  
We seek our own way to fulfillment.  
We cause division rather than create unity.**

**In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us.  
Let the words of our mouths,  
the thoughts of our hearts,  
and everything that we do  
be filled with faith, hope, and love.  
Amen.**

P: Hear the voice of Jesus:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives.”

In the name of Jesus the Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

**C: Amen**

*Hymn of Praise* Now the Feast and Celebration  
(For music turn to Hymn 789 in the Blue Hymnal)

*Refrain*

**Now the feast and celebration,  
all of creation sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and freedom  
praise and glory forevermore!**

1. **Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,  
whose blood has freed and united us  
to be one great people of God.** *Refrain*
2. **Power and riches, wisdom and might,  
all honor and glory to Christ forever.** *Refrain*
3. **For God has come to dwell with us,  
to make us people of God;  
to make all things new.** *Refrain*

Text and music: Marty Haugen; Copyright 1990 GIA Publications Inc.

*Prayer of the Day*

A: Let us pray...

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.**

† WORD †

First Reading Amos 5:10-15

<sup>10</sup>They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

<sup>12</sup>For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.

<sup>14</sup>Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

<sup>15</sup>Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

*After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 51:14-19 (*Read responsively*)

A: Save me, bring back my joy,  
support me, strengthen my will.

**C: Then I will teach your way  
and sinners will turn to you.**

A: Help me, stop my tears,  
and I will sing your goodness.

**C: Lord, give me words  
and I will shout your praise.**

A: When I offer a burnt offering,  
the gift does not please you.

**C: So I offer my shattered spirit;  
a changed heart you welcome.**

Second Reading 1 John 3:18-29

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

*After the reading the reader may say:* The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (1 John 3:11)

**C: Alleluia. Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Luke 3:1-20

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’” <sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up

children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” <sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” <sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

### Children’s Sermon

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day      Crashing Waters at Creation  
(For music see Hymn 455 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Crashing waters at creation,  
ordered by the Spirit’s breath,  
first to witness day’s beginning  
from the brightness of night’s death.**
- 2. Parting waters stood and trembled  
as the captives passed on through,  
washing off the chains of bondage  
channel to a life made new.**
- 3. Cleansing water once at Jordan**

**closed around the one foretold,  
opened to reveal the glory  
ever new and ever old.**

- 4. Living water, never ending,  
quench the thirst and flood the soul.  
Well-spring, source of life eternal,  
drench our dry-ness, make us whole.**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993. Music: attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

*Apostles' Creed*

**A: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed**

**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

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,*

*The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

*The pastor concludes the prayer:*

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

Peace

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

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

† MEAL †

Offering

Hymn of Thanksgiving For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.**

**Grace our table with your presence, Lord,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray: God of all creation,

**C: all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**



Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

*(spoken)*

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

*Communion Distribution*

*Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. If you need gluten free wafers please ask the assistant distributing bread. You may receive wine from either the common cup or in an individual glass. If you would like to receive in a glass please pick one up from the tray as you approach the altar rail. White grape juice is available in the individual glasses for those who do not wish to take wine. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:*

*Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)*

**807** *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Red Hymnal)*

**94** *Down to the River to Pray (Songbook Binder)*

*Communion Blessing* *After all have communed the pastor will say:*

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

*Post Communion Prayer*

A: Let us pray:

We thank you, O God, that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use your gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

†    SENDING    †

*Farewell and Godspeed*

*Blessing*

P: The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you now and remain with you always.

**C: Amen.**

*Sending Hymn* Baptized in Water  
(For music turn to Hymn 456 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:  
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,  
faithfully now God's praise we sing.**
2. **Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
dead in the tomb with Christ our king:  
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,  
thankfully now God's praise we sing.**
3. **Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign of Christ our king:  
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;  
joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953; Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950

*Dismissal*

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **God's Work. Our Hands.**

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
Acolyte	Molly Perdan
Altar Care	Liz Brown
Communion Assistants	Tim and Liz Brown
Nursery Care	Kristi Bullwinkle
Counters	Tim Brown and Bill Hagerman
Coffee Hour	In honor of Cindy Swigart

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, January 27, 2019**

Greeters and Ushers	John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Katya Kurilovitch
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	<i>Please sign up!</i>

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