



SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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WELCOME

Saint James Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America welcomes you to our online worship as we celebrate The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As Saint James continues to address the challenges of the COVID19 pandemic spike, we gather for worship online. We confidently trust that the Holy Spirit of God makes us one even when we are at a distance from one another.

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

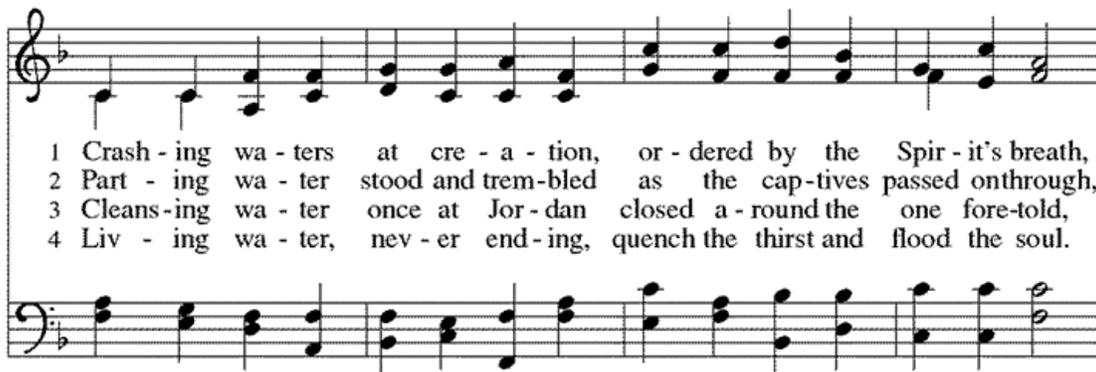
WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Pastor Denise M. Grant
Kurt Heyer
Dick Allison
Susan Allison

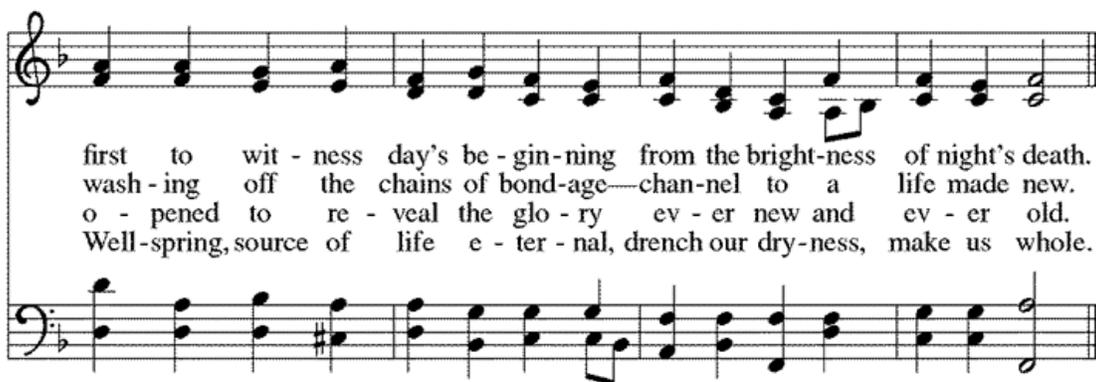
Preaching and Presiding
Minister of Music
Lector
Lector, Intercessor

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Crashing Waters at Creation



1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,
 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,
 3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,
 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.
 wash - ing off the chains of bond - age — chan - nel to a life made new.
 o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.
 Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and the Son + and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

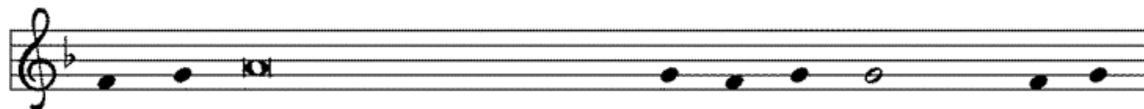
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



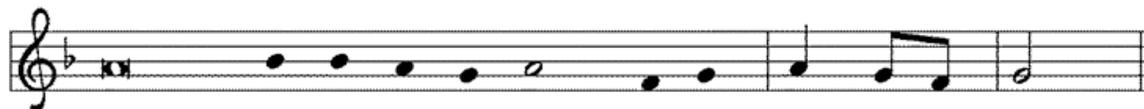
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



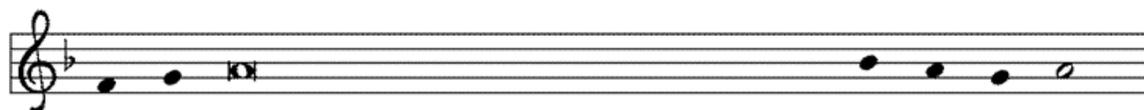
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



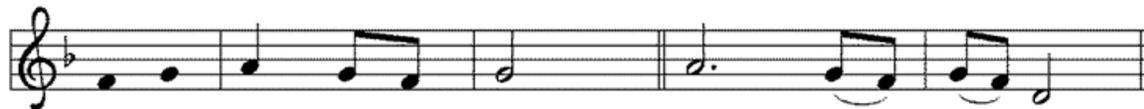
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



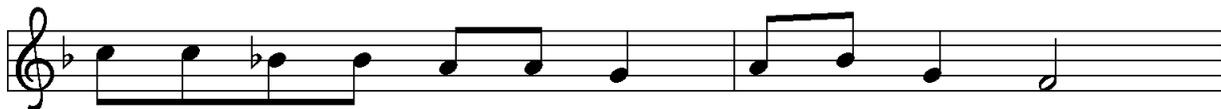
A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Let Our Gladness Have No End



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, Hal - le - lu - jah!
2 Proph - e - sies in days of old, Hal - le - lu - jah!
3 See the love - liest bloom - ing rose, Hal - le - lu - jah!
4 In - to flesh is made the Word, Hal - le - lu - jah!



for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!
God has sent the one fore - told. Hal - le - lu - jah!
from the branch of Jes - se grows. Hal - le - lu - jah!
our true ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!

Refrain



On this day God gave us Christ, the Son, to



save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

Text: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.; tr. unknown
Music: NARODIL SE KRISTUS PÁN, Bohemian carol, 15th cent.

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, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

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.

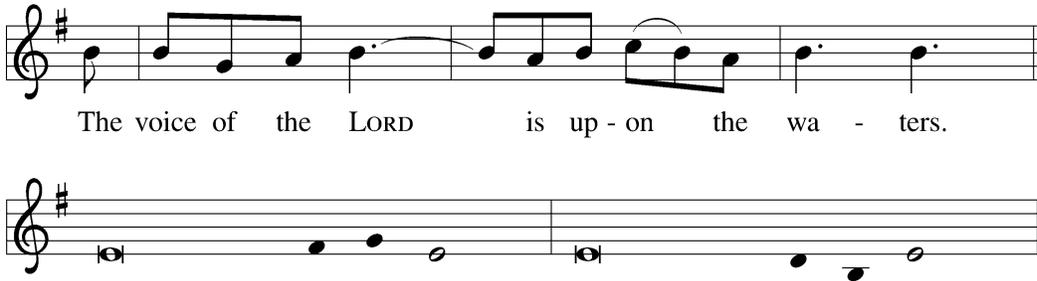
A reading from Genesis.

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.

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29



- ¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. Refrain**
- ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- ⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. Refrain**
- ⁹The 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!"
- ¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
- ¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. **Refrain**

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Psalm 29:3
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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.

A reading from Acts.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Light Shone in Darkness

Verses 1 and 2



1 Light shone in dark - ness at the world’s cre - a - tion,
 2 Light shone in dark - ness at the new cre - a - tion;
 3 Light shines in dark - ness till the full cre - a - tion;



bath - ing in beau - ty na - ture’s rev - e - la - tion. All that has be - ing,
 Christ rose in glo - ry, won for us sal - va - tion. Sing, earth and heav - en,
 Christ’s bod - y, groan - ing, suf - fers trib - u - la - tion, longs for God’s jus - tice,



cry in ad - o - ra - tion, “Praise for the light. A - men!”
 hymns of ju - bi - la - tion, praise for the light. A - men!
 glob - al trans - for - ma - tion, prays for the light. A - men!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: LUX IN TENEBRIS, Mark Sedio, b. 1954
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HOLY 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.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 our LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

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.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune
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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Dear friends, on this day that we celebrate the baptism of our Lord, Jesus Christ, let us give thanks to God for the gift of baptism, and renew our commitment to the covenant that God made with us when we were baptized.

Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

If so, answer, I believe.

I believe.

Do you 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?

If so, answer, I believe.

I believe.

Do you 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?

If so, answer, I believe.

I believe.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

If so, answer: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, that we may boldly serve in the world according to your will. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, God's unconditional love, and the grace that comes from baptism and the cross;

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, for laborers busy both day and night, for those who manufacture the COVID vaccine and those who provide logistics to distribute it, and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their wisdom and strength wisely;

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the sick and those who provide medical care; for those with coronavirus and those who care for them; for those who are in the last days of life and for the hospice workers who bring dignity at the end of life; for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy; for the lonely and those who provide companionship; and for all who suffer and those who walk with the suffering; and for those we name silently or aloud ...

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For Saint James as we gather for worship across the miles; for renewal and new energy for our congregational ministries; and for those seeking renewal in their spiritual lives and in their daily work. Stir us to reveal for others that all people are beloved of God; Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness 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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father + Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN

This is the Spirit's Entry Now

next page

DISMISSAL

As witnesses of God's glory and heralds of God's grace, go forth in joy and gladness to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fugue in G (BuxWV 175)

Dietrich Buxtehude

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now

1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r

the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.
that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

Text: Thomas E. Herbranson, b. 1933
Music: North American traditional: arr. hymnal version
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