**baptism of our lord- january 8,2023**

**zion lutheran, philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**LAND ACKNOWLEGEMENT**

We begin by acknowledging the traditional territory upon which we gather this morning. For many thousands of years, the Anishinabewaki, Mississauga’s, and Neutral peoples have sought to walk gently on this land. They aided the first European travellers to this territory and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate. We remember their love of this land and seek a new relationship based in honour and deep respect.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to worship on this Baptism of our Lord Sunday, January 8, 2023. The weather report for this first week of January…dull, dreary, and damp.

Perhaps you made a new year’s resolution to become more familiar with scripture especially the gospels that we read each week. If so, why not join us for Bible study. It takes place at Trinity New Hamburg, Tuesday mornings at 10:30.

Our Annual meeting will take place on Feb 12 at 12:30. There will be a potluck lunch directly after the service followed by the meeting. We are needing 3 councillors.

A congregation in the ELCIC received the devastating news that their beloved church burned to the ground in a suspicious fire on December 31. Please keep the congregation of St Joseph, in Hays Lake AB in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their beloved church amid the suspicion of arson.

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (ELW p. 97)**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water,

the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

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 Lordin the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG*Shall We Gather at the River* (ELW 423)**

1 Shall we gather at the river,  
where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever  
flowing by the throne of God?  
  
Refrain  
Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.  
  
2 On the margin of the river,  
washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever,  
all the happy golden day. Refrain  
  
3 Ere we reach the shining river,  
lay we ev'ry burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver,  
and provide a robe and crown. Refrain  
  
4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,  
soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver  
with the melody of peace. Refrain

**GREETING (ELW p. 213)**

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

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE (ELW p. 213)**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE – Glory to God (ELW p. 213)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)**

Let us pray.

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9**

A reading from Isaiah.

*God’s servant is endowed with God’s spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant’s task. God’s old promises have been fulfilled; the servant’s new assignment is to bring light to the nations.*

1Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
2He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;  
3a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
4He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.  
5Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:  
6I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,  
7to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

8I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. 9See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: 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.**  
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 Lordshakes the wilderness;** **the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**  
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.

**SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43**

A reading from Acts.

*Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God’s inclusive forgiveness in Jesus’ name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter’s preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

34Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 216)**

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

13Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” 15But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. 16And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 217)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized* (ELW 304)**

1 Christ, when for us you were baptized,  
God's Spirit on you came,  
as peaceful as a dove, and yet  
as urgent as a flame,  
as urgent as a flame.  
  
2 God called you, "My beloved Son";  
you are God's servant true,  
sent to proclaim the reign of heav'n,  
God's holy will to do,  
God's holy will to do.  
  
3 Straightway and steadfast until death  
you then obeyed the call  
to serve with free and willing heart,  
to give your life for all,  
to give your life for all.  
  
4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord;  
your cross on us be signed,  
that likewise in God's service we  
may perfect freedom find,  
may perfect freedom find.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Calling God, you speak with power to your church. Open our hearts and minds to the new things you are declaring. Strengthen bishops, pastors, deacons, lay leaders, and teachers of the faith. Equip the baptized for your reconciling and redeeming work. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, you provide the waters of the earth and in Jesus’ baptism you reveal the waters of life. Cleanse and protect oceans, rivers, and watersheds like the Grand, Thames and Nith rivers. Bring relief to parched lands and to communities without access to safe water. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you never weary of establishing justice. Increase cooperation and constructive dialogue between nations. Guide local, national, and international authorities to govern with equity, vision, and integrity. We pray for those in military service, for peacemakers, and for our enemies. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Abiding God, your mercy is steadfast. Give sanctuary to people who flee from oppression, war, poverty, and famine. Sustain health care workers, caregivers, first responders, counselors, and all who help and heal. Comfort those who are grieving or experiencing crisis *especially* Sarah, Anne, Chris, John, Vivian, Stuart, Edna, Susan, Marg, Marlene, Debbie G, Doris, the congregation of St. Joseph in Hays Lake, Alberta, our members in long term care Esther, Robert, Rob, and Evelyn, and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts (pause). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Blessing God, in Christ you gather the beloved community. Kindle the gifts of your Spirit in your people. Accompany the newly baptized, those recently ordained, and any beginning a new ministry. Inspire synodical leaders and congregational councils to serve with imagination and wisdom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Promising God, your faithfulness endures throughout all generations. We give thanks for those who have died in Christ, trusting that we will be united with them and all the saints in Christ’s resurrection life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 217)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING- Salvation belongs…. (ELW p. 219)**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD- time after epiphany**

Holy God,

Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness, we hear your Word in the scriptures, proclaiming to us your wisdom and inviting us to follow your call.

For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God.

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother, who preached your righteousness, healed the sick, and revived the brokenhearted.

For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God.

By your Spirit, bless all who receive this Word, that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God.

Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 221)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as 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;**

**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.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor’s rod

☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* (ELW 310)**

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
manifested by the star  
to the sages from afar,  
branch of royal David's stem  
in thy birth at Bethlehem:  
anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in flesh made manifest.  
  
2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
prophet, priest, and king supreme;  
and at Cana wedding guest  
in thy Godhead manifest;  
manifest in pow'r divine,  
changing water into wine;  
anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in flesh made manifest.  
  
3 Manifest in making whole  
weakened body, fainting soul;  
manifest in valiant fight,  
quelling all the devil's might;  
manifest in gracious will,  
ever bringing good from ill:  
anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in flesh made manifest.  
  
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,  
present in thy holy word;  
grace to imitate thee now  
and be pure, as pure art thou;  
that we might become like thee  
at thy great epiphany,  
and may praise thee, ever blest,  
God in flesh made manifest.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

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