

## WORSHIP AT HOME: Week of 1/10/21

### Baptism of Our Lord

*In the event you are unable to view or hear an MPLC service, here's a brief worship order you can use at home. You might light a candle before you begin to quiet your heart and prepare to worship God. You will need a bible to look up the readings. You may read aloud or in silence to yourself.*



BEGIN: *(You may trace a cross on your forehead or make the sign of the cross.)*

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.

PRAY: *(On this day to remember the Baptism of our Lord, you might pour yourself a glass of water before offering this prayer of thanksgiving for baptism.)*

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 Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

READ: Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe 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.
- 3 The 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.
- 5 The 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.
- 7 The 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.
- 9 The 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.

11 O Lord, give strength to your people;  
give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

Mark 1: 1-11

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

SERMON: by *Pastor Krista Zimmerman*

Grace and Peace to you from Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

I had a hard time writing a sermon this week. The events of this past week have been very troubling. I know I'm not the only one. There are so many things I want to say about it and yet, out of fear for saying something wrong- I would also rather stay quiet this week. But I cannot do that. In my search for the perfect thing to say to you today, I read a lot of different things. A lot of smart, faithful Christians commenting on the mayhem we saw at our nation's capitol this week. Many of them echoing what many of us our feeling- confused, angry, sad, dismayed. The thing that really irks me as a Christian and as a pastor, is that several of the people at the Capitol felt they were carrying out a mission from God. They put a wooden cross and a noose up there. That is such a deep perversion of the Gospel of Jesus. Of the justice that Jesus calls for. The Jesus that I know, and I believe most of you know, is one of peace. Not a peace that is just the absence of conflict, but one that seeks the good for all people. Especially those who need it most. That is the kind of justice that we sign on for when we're baptized. In the midst of all the voices, all the rhetoric- God's voice rings loud and clear at Jesus baptism. Rising above the others. "You are my son, the Beloved with whom I am well pleased." This is a heritage that we too are part of. In baptism, we are called beloved. We are called God's children. In all of life, but especially in the midst of turmoil- the voice we need to listen for is God's. God's voice leads us to truth.

At Jesus baptism, God speaks. I wish that God would tear open the heavens and speak. I wish that God would come in such a big way. But just because God does not appear in this way, doesn't mean God isn't saying anything. God is still speaking. In so many ways... through the Bible, through others, through our thoughts and feelings. But it can be hard to hear God when we're hearing so many other voices too. God's voice is one of love. It's one of trust. You know it's God's voice when it feels and sounds like love. Not only for you but for other people and creatures too.

In baptism, we are claimed as children of God. God says- this is my beloved Child- and there's nothing you can do to stop my love for you. Nothing. That means God loves the people who do bad things too. But God does not support the bad. God is brokenhearted when people are being horrible to one another. God doesn't stop loving them. But God does call for our repentance. Repentance means confessing our wrongs and returning to

God's way of life and love. We can't experience the greatness and wideness of God's love until we put down our swords and surrender to the kind of love and justice that God has for all God created.

John was preaching about repentance. Turn around and leave your old sinful ways. Reject the systems of oppression and turn toward the love of God. Prepare your hearts what Jesus has for you. That's what we get to do every day.

Baptism isn't a one time event. It's a gift of grace that keeps on giving. Today, as we celebrate Jesus baptism, we will again renew our own baptismal vows. We will once again surrender ourselves to the love and leading of Jesus. In the midst of however you may be feeling about the world, about current events, about personal struggles, just know that you are beloved. That you are not alone. That Christ walks with us. That we walk together. That's not just a line. Reach out if you're in need. Any of your pastoral staff would be willing to talk to you more. May God bless. May God's voice be abundantly clear to us. Amen.

PRAY: For parents, grandparents, baptismal sponsors, and all who teach others about their inheritance in baptism as children of God; for our country in transition, for all who guard our freedom, and for all who stand beside fellow citizens for the wellbeing of the republic; for people distributing and receiving vaccines and those who will wait months or even years for one; for the sick and tired; for all who grieve the end of relationships; for the church and God's mission to heal the world, and for those we lift before you: Ray Nellis, Ben Poulsen, Dick Jonas, Ross Larson, Sharon Polak, Trina Larsen, Linda Petersen, Helen & Ken Fiones, Sheila Johnson, Barbara and Scott Christiansen, Karen Tyykila, Cathy Spatz, Jennifer Vyeda, Jim Poulsen, Diane Poulsen, Barb Mains, Pastor Kara Baylor, Christian Holguin, Joel Smith, Kristin Brandt, Karen Larsen, Paul Berger, people suffering from Covid-19, those we name before you...and for ourselves...

For Donna and Craig Braaten on the death of Donna's mother, Alberta (Birdie) Dahlgren, and for Sue and Ron Schultz on the death of Sue's mother, Doris Zaner.

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.

BLESS: God the creator strengthen us; Jesus the beloved fill us; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep us in peace. Amen.

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





## WORSHIP AT HOME: Week of 1/17/21 Second Sunday after Epiphany

*In the event you are unable to view or hear an MPLC service, here's a brief worship order you can use at home. You might light a candle before you begin to quiet your heart and prepare to worship God. You will need a bible to look up the readings. You may read aloud or in silence to yourself.*

**BEGIN:** *(You may trace a cross on your forehead or make the sign of the cross.)* 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.

**CONFESS:** *(You may offer these prayers to God with a repentant heart.)*

Holy God, you 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.

*(Read these words to yourself and be assured of the grace of God in Christ for you.)*

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.

**PRAY:** Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**READ:** Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 and John 1:43-51:

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than

these.”<sup>51</sup> And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

REFLECT: See the provided “Daily Discipleship” Bible Study handout for John 1:43-51.

PRAY: For the body of Christ gathered throughout the world and for all servants of the gospel, that following Jesus, the church lives out its calling every day,

For the well-being of creation, for plants and animals, and for all that God has marvelously made, that we serve as wise stewards of Earth, our home,

For police officers and firefighters, for attorneys and paralegals, for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments, that they provide protection to all people, especially the most vulnerable,

For those lacking food or shelter, for those who are sick or grieving, and for those who are imprisoned or homebound, that God console all who suffer,

For our neighborhood, for visitors joining us for the first time or returning, and for all who long to be together in our assembly, that all who seek to know God may be nourished by word and sacrament,

In thanksgiving for the saints who have gone before us that their lives give us a vision of the gospel in action,

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.

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.

BLESS: God the creator strengthen us; Jesus the beloved fill us; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep us in peace. Amen.

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