

# ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

25 N. ADAMS STREET, YORK, PA 17404

PHONE: 717-854-7198



## *Baptism of Our Lord*

**January 10, 2021**



*WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church! May you know God's grace, peace, joy, and love as we hear the Holy Scriptures read, hear the Word of God preached, and worship together this morning (via Live Stream or You Tube) in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

*St. James Congregational Council and the people of St. James*



## GATHERING HYMN *Words for meditation and following along.*

### Thy Strong Word

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;<br>at thy speaking it was done.<br>For created light we thank thee,<br>while thine ordered seasons run.<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Praise to thee who light dost send!<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Alleluia without end!          | 4 | From the cross thy wisdom shining<br>breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;<br>from the cross forever beameth<br>all thy bright redeeming light.<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Praise to thee who light dost send!<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Alleluia without end!                |
| 2 | Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,<br>dark as night and deep as death,<br>broke the light of thy salvation,<br>breathed thine own life-breathing breath.<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Praise to thee who light dost send!<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Alleluia without end! | 5 | Give us lips to sing thy glory,<br>tongues thy mercy to proclaim,<br>throats that shout the hope that fills us,<br>mouths to speak thy holy name.<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>May the light which thou dost send<br>fill our songs with alleluias,<br>alleluias without end! |
| 3 | Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;<br>bright with thine own holiness,<br>glorious now, we press toward glory,<br>and our lives our hopes confess.<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Praise to thee who light dost send!<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Alleluia without end!     | 6 | God the Father, light-creator,<br>to thee laud and honor be.<br>To thee, Light of Light begotten,<br>praise be sung eternally.<br>Holy Spirit, light-revealer,<br>glory, glory be to thee.<br>Mortals, angels, now and ever<br>praise the holy Trinity!                    |

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## THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

### 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. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE

### First Reading: 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.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

### Psalm: Psalm 29

*The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)*

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;**

**worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;**  
**the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,**  
**and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice | of the LORD  
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;**  
**the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>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!"

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;**  
**the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength | to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

### Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He 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." <sup>3</sup>Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup>Paul 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.”<sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—<sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

+ [P] The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark [C] **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **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.*

<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."

[P] The Gospel of the Lord. [C] **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **MEDITATION**

**Pastor Larry McConnell**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Words for meditation and following along.*

### **I Bind unto Myself Today**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 I bind unto myself today<br/>the strong name of the Trinity<br/>by invocation of the same,<br/>the Three in One and One in Three.</p> <p>2 I bind this day to me forever,<br/>by pow'r of faith, Christ's<br/>incarnation,<br/>his baptism in the Jordan River,<br/>his cross of death for my salvation,<br/>his bursting from the spiced tomb,<br/>his riding up the heav'nly way,<br/>his coming at the day of doom,<br/>I bind unto myself today.</p> | <p>3 I bind unto myself today<br/>the virtues of the starlit heaven,<br/>the glorious sun's life-giving ray,<br/>the whiteness of the moon at even,<br/>the flashing of the lightning free,<br/>the whirling wind's tempestuous<br/>shocks,<br/>the stable earth, the deep salt sea,<br/>around the old eternal rocks.</p> |
|---|--|

4 Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

5 I bind unto myself the name,  
the strong name of the Trinity  
by invocation of the same,  
the Three in One and One in Three,  
of whom all nature has creation,  
eternal Father, Spirit, Word.  
Praise to the Lord of my salvation;  
salvation is of Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. St. Patrick, 372-466; para. Cecil  
Frances Alexander, 1818-1895  
Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1895

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED (livestream only)**

**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**

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

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

For the nations of the world and their leaders, for laborers busy both day and night, and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their strength wisely, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the sick and those who provide medical care, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for all who suffer (*especially*), that God shower compassion, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the congregation gathered here, for students returning to school, for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations, 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 dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

### **SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

*We invite you to share Christ's peace with each other and text it out to friends!*

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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 HYMN** *Words for meditation and following along.*

#### **Remember and Rejoice**

- 1 Remember and rejoice,  
renewed by floods of grace.  
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ,  
that time cannot erase.
- 2 In life, in death, we trust  
in God's most holy name,  
forever traced by water sign,  
and sealed by Spirit flame.
- 3 We pledge ourselves anew  
to flee the lures of hell,  
to cling to Christ's community,  
in justice, peace to dwell.

- 4 God, bless us by your grace;  
remind us of your care.  
Renewing Spirit, fill us now,  
inspire our work, our prayer.
- 5 Remember and rejoice,  
renewed by floods of grace.  
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ,  
that time cannot erase.

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**Dismissal**

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

**Organ Postlude**

Tocatta in d dorian BWV 538

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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Assisting Minister / Lay Reader: Linda Kern

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**REMINDER: PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup> TO CONFIRM YOUR PARTICIPAION IN THE VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING AND TO RECEIVE THE LINK AND/OR PHONE CONNECTION NUMBERS NEEDED FOR PARTICIPATION.**

The ANNUAL meeting date is Sunday January 17, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. To control access to the meeting and ensure we have a quorum, please call Pat Breneman in the church office (717-854-7198) by January 13, 2021 to receive the computer link to access the meeting. If you do not have computer access, you can still join the meeting via telephone. Please call Pat to receive the telephone number for the meeting. If office phone is not answered, please leave a message with your name and number, your call will be returned.

As of this writing, the only item for voting is the 2021 budget. Please review the agenda, the budget, and the reports prior to the meeting. Copies of the 2021 BUDGET were included in Rod’s letter dated December 30, 2020.

I look forward to seeing all of you on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

ANNUAL BULLETIN OF REPORTS HAVE BEEN E-MAILED TO ALL THOSE WHOSE CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESSES ARE ON RECORD. IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PRINTED COPY PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PICK UP A COPY WHEN PAT IS IN THE OFFICE.

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Please scroll down for additional announcements.

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## CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 10, 2021

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*WELCOME & THANK YOU to Pastor Larry McConnell for leading us in worship today. Also, THANK YOU to John Widmann for providing music for our worship service.*

**PASTORAL EMERGENCIES:** If you or a family member should experience an emergency and in need of pastoral care during this transition time here at St. James, we are asking that you please contact the church office (717-854-7198.) If no answer at the office you may leave a message, Pat B, working from home, checks for messages every 2-3 hours. If you need a more rapid response, and overnight & weekends, please call council vice-president, Ann Bridge, (717-968-2150). Another option is to send an email to **secretary@stjamesyork.org** - e-mails are also checked frequently at home.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES** will be live streamed until further notice. We are following Synod and CDC guidelines.

**Breakfast Blessings** has been doing takeout meals and continues to hand out personal hygiene items during COVID times. Thank you to all for your many donations to our breakfast distributions. *Breakfast Blessings Committee*

**FROM SOCIAL MINISTRY COMM.** We continue to collect items for the West York Bulldog Pantry. To help fill the pantry the following non-perishable items are needed this month: toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap, body wash, deodorant, cleaning supplies, paper towels and toilet tissues. **PLEASE NOTE:** Church will be open on Monday AND Wednesday mornings, 9:00-11:00 a.m., for pantry donations to be dropped off. If hours are not convenient, please contact Pat Mummert (717-792-0161) or Norma Smith (717-845-7362) to make other arrangements. (Please do not take donations to the school.) Thank you to everyone for your donations.

**REMINDER from Stewardship Committee** - Deb Meckley, Chair  
The Central PA Blood Bank and the American Red Cross are in dire need of blood. If anyone would like to donate, Apple Hill Medical Center on Monument Rd in York will accept your donation by APPOINTMENT ONLY-call (717)741-8307. Please give the church's number 1098 when you donate.

**2020 CONTRIBUTIONS** - Members needing a copy of their 2020 financial statement are ask to please contact the church office by January 15<sup>th</sup>. If no answer when calling, please leave a message with your name and number. (If you requested and received statements previously there is no need to call.)

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**THANK YOU TO THE WEST YORK BLOCK WATCH COMMITTEE** for declaring St. James a first-place winner in their Holiday Decorating Contest. We received a \$50 Weis gift card that we will use to purchase items for the West York Bull Dog Pantry.