

St. James Lutheran Church
Fishersville, VA
January 7, 2024

**Baptism of
Our Lord**

**BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION
AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

**We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.**

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us,

that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

INTRODUCTION

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.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
 By the authority of † Jesus Christ,
 your sins are forgiven.
 You are God's beloved.
Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: "As with Gladness Men of Old" (LBW 82)

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.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**
 For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, 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



1A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



1B Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

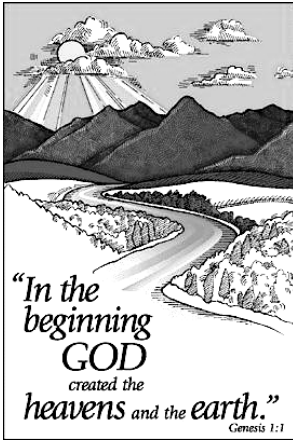
And also with you.

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 READING:

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.



Genesis 1:1-5

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.

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the ¹LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo-¹ry and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory ¹due God’s name;
worship the LORD in the beau-¹ty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of ¹glory thunders;

the LORD is upon the ¹mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is a pow-¹erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a ¹voice of splendor.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the ¹cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce-¹dars of Lebanon;

⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip ¹like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a ¹young wild ox.

⁷The voice ¹of the LORD
bursts forth in ¹lightning flashes.

⁸The voice of the LORD ¹shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder-¹ness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the ¹forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are ¹crying, “Glory!”

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned a-¹bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for-¹evermore.

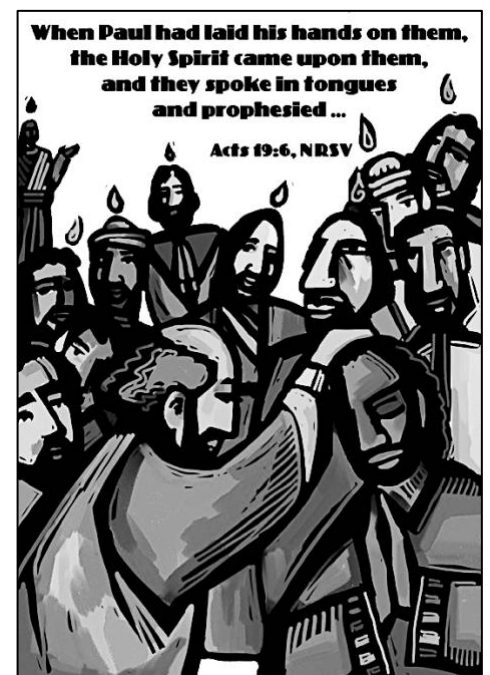
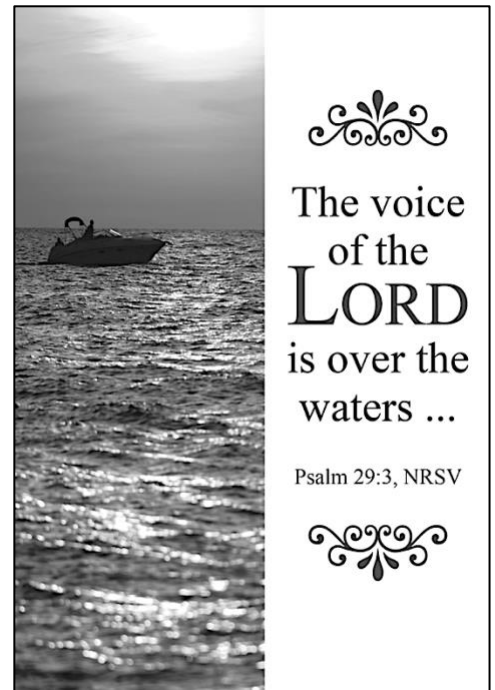
¹¹O LORD, give strength ¹to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless-¹ings of peace.

SECOND READING:

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.

Acts 19:1-7

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

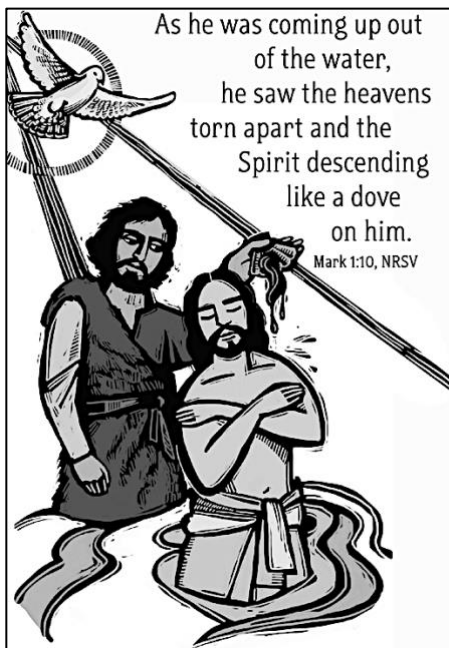


John’s baptism.” ⁴Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

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.

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 the Lord.

SERMON: Rev. Carl Trost

**HYMN OF THE DAY: "When Jesus Came to Jordan"
(WOV 647)**

APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith by using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born
of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

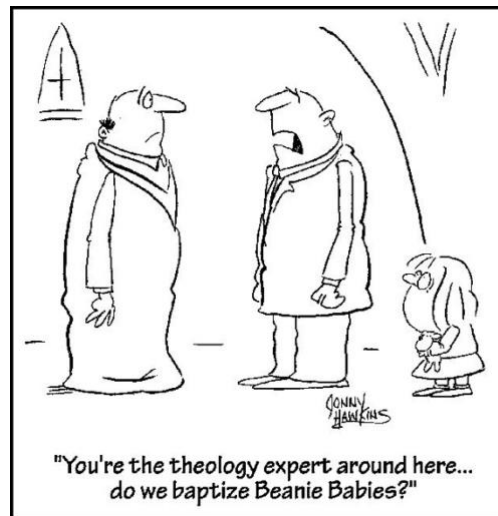
the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.



THE PRAYERS

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering, especially Norma, Gillian, Cecilia, Jean, Betty, Inez, Charlotte, Zeby, Susan, Claire, Charles, Ellen, and Loretta. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

(For whom else and what else shall we pray...)

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Greet each other in the peace of the Lord.)

ANTHEM: "Holy Child Within the Manger" Text and music, Marty Haugen

OFFERING

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.

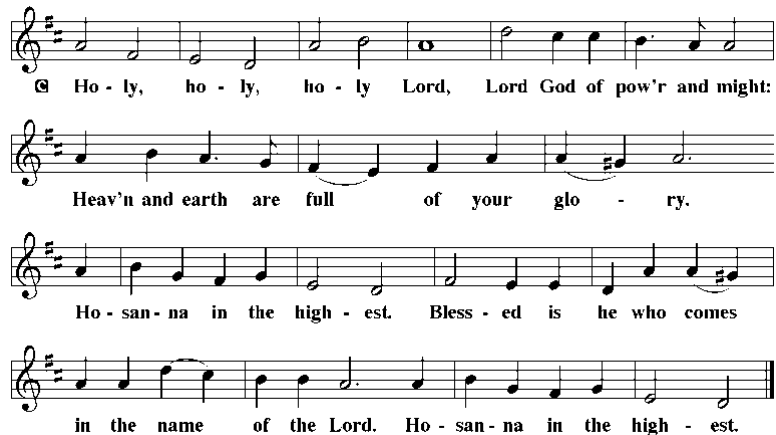
DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

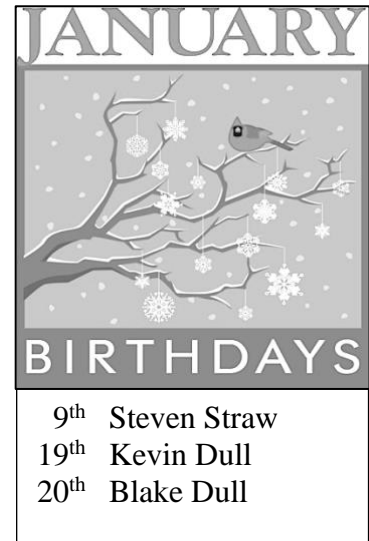
THANKSGIVING

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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

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.**



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

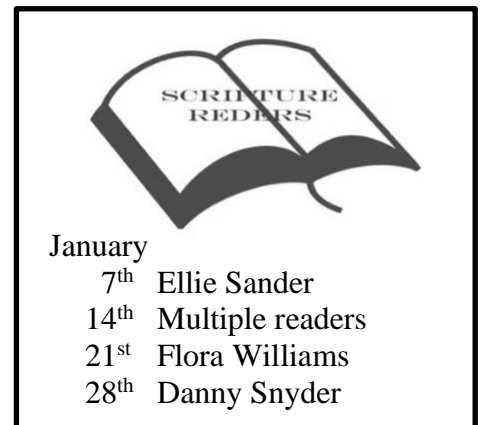
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "O Master let me Walk with You" (LBW 492)

BLESSING

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✚ bless you and remain with you always.
Amen.



Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer Concerns

Ongoing Need for Prayer

Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Betty Diehl, Gillian Taylor, Zeby (Ellen & Charles' grandson), Charlotte Shifflett (Danny's aunt), Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie's aunt), and Susan Zirges (friend of Sherie & Paul).

Prayer Request for

Charles, Ellen, Claire, and Loretta Whiting (Sherie's mother).

Community Conversations

- January flowers are given by Chris & Carolyn Fuss in memory of the Davis Family & Jim Williams.
- January 9th Open Circle meets at 1pm at St. James. Sherie is our hostess.
- January 9th Council meeting at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- January 25th Quilt Group at 1pm,
- January 28th Reports for our Annual Report are due to Anne.
- Anne and Pastor Gordon announce the birth of their first great grandchild, James Zechariah Seidel, arrived on Saturday December 30, 2023.
- Choir practice every Tuesday at 6pm at Betty Bartley's home.
- Men's Group meets every Friday at 9:00 am.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
 - January—Joyce Dull



We need your help the Backpack program now has 19 kids. Your support by purchasing any of the items listed below is much appreciated. Items can be placed in the box in the narthex. There is also an offering basket for financial support of the program.

Mac and cheese	Kroger meals
Chef Boyardee meals	Fruit cups
Boxes of cereal	Poptarts
Oatmeal	Ramen Noodles, any kind
Boxed juices	Yahoo chocolate milk
Apple sauce	Raisins
"Hugs" Drink Barrels	All single servings

Annual Reports

- Pastor's Report—Pastor Gordon
- President's Report—Gene Giltner
- Property Committee—Paul Rohal & John Grove (co-chairs)
- Social Ministry—Joyce Dull (chair)
- Worship & Music & Altar Guild
Flora Williams (chair)
- Open Circle—Anne Putnam (President)
- Cemetery Treasurers' Report—John Wright
Reports due by January 28th

Pastor Gordon Putnam

434-760-0263

Grputnam1949@gmail.com

Pastor Carl Trost

Hannah Pingel, Pianist

Sam Diehl and Bambi Straw, Assisting Ministers

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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