

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155 www.stpaulsyork.org Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

## WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 184 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

Thank you for your faithfulness in sending your offering through the mail, by using online options from your financial institution, or through the "Donate" now from the church website **stpaulsyork.org**. Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul's and our ministry partners.

## Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

## **Entering and Leaving the Church:**

Face masks are required inside,

Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered. This will help if we need to be in contact. Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.

## **Offerings:**

Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

#### While in the Nave:

Please wear your mask. Please sit in designated pews only. You may sit together as a family. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.

#### **Communion Procedure:**

- Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side (left) of the nave communes first followed by the font side (right).
- Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.
- Your entire household may gather at a position marked by the green cross.
- Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.
- Please do not reach out to take the Host from the minister.
- Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.
- We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul's. Please thank Deacon Ellen Doughty, Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Tim Yakim for their dedication and service.

## Sunday, January 10, 2021 The Baptism of Our Lord

## Holy Communion 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

**PRELUDE** 

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

Bruce Neswick

Stand

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the H Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God.

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

#### 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 mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

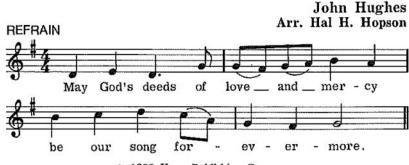
Let us pray. Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful in their calling to be your children and inheritors with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

Sit

FIRST READING Genesis 1:1-5 (back page)

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 29 Congregation sings refrain where noted.



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the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. REFRAIN

**REFRAIN** 

Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,\* ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;\*

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;\*

the LORD is upon the | mighty waters. **REFRAIN** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;\*

the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;\*

the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>he makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,\* and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire; the voice of the LORD

shakes the wilderness;\*

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the | oak trees writhe\* and strips the | forests bare.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>And in the temple | of the LORD\* all are | crying, "Glory!"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>The Lord sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;\*

the LORD sits enthroned as | king forevermore.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>The LORD shall give strength | to his people;\*

the LORD shall give his people the bless- | ing of peace.

SECOND READING

Acts 19:1-7 (back page)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

#### ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

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

#### HOLY GOSPEL

St. Mark 1:4-11 (back page)

The Holy Gospel according to .... Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the Gospel

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

**SERMON** 

Pastor Judy McKee

Stand

#### **APOSTLES' 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

## 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.

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.

#### **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Sit

#### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 our 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**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,

that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

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,

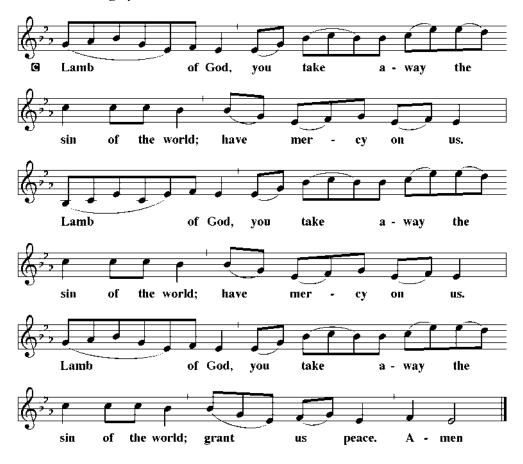
as we forgive those who trespass against us;

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.

**FRACTION RITE** A brief silence is kept.

## **AGNUS DEI** Sung by Cantor



*Sit* The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.

#### **COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL**

Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord God, grant that all who have been fed with Bread from heaven may be renewed in the covenant of their Holy Baptism and, following your Son in true faith and obedience, may become your children in name and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

#### BLESSING

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

## HYMN Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God (LBW 191) stanzas 1 & 5



#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** All Who Believe and are Baptized

Richard Proulx

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Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave. Feel free to gather outside for conversation. Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly. "Behold my servant, my chosen, in whom my soul delights."
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

One of the decisions every good story teller has to make is when to reveal to the reader or hearer the story's secret. Every story -fiction or true – has a secret and the teller of the story has to decide whether to let the reader or hearer know that secret early on or as a surprise at the end. When the secret is revealed early on, the reader/hearer knows that secret before other characters in the story know it and as the reader/hearer, we watch others gradually learn what we have already heard.

The Gospel of Mark is such a story. The secret of Mark's Gospel is the identity of Jesus of Nazareth. Mark unveils this secret in the very first sentence of his Gospel as he declares: "The Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Mark wants his readers/his hearers/us to know that this Jesus he is about to introduce to us *is* the **Son of God!** And, lest we miss this secret, revealed in the opening line, Mark confirms it in the opening episode of the Gospel. Jesus, coming up out of the waters of the Jordan River where he was baptized by John, sees the Holy Spirit descending upon him like a dove and he hears the voice from heaven saying: "You are my Son, the Beloved. With you I am well pleased." As Mark tells the story, only Jesus (and now we who hear this story) hears the voice and sees the Spirit. This knowledge of Jesus as Son of God is as yet a secret to Jesus' contemporaries and even to John, the Baptizer. God the Father speaks the secret. Jesus the Son hears it. God the Holy Spirit brings it. And now, through the Gospel of Mark, we know it too. The identity of Jesus of Nazareth is revealed to us. Jesus is the Son of God!

Here in this Jesus is the one who fulfills the hopes of Israel. Here is the one who fulfills God's promise spoken through the prophet Isaiah. Here is the one who will bring justice to the nations. Here is the one who will come to call all people in righteousness. Here is the one who will take God's people by the hand and keep them in that righteousness. Here is the one who will fulfill the prophesy of John the baptizer and bestow on God's people the Holy Spirit.

As Mark's Gospel unfolds before us we watch with amazement the lack of understanding and insight of those around Jesus. No one else is able to see and understand the identity of Jesus, except perhaps a few demons! The authorities – both Roman and Jewish, civil and religious – mistake him for a troublemaker. The crowds confuse him with the prophet Elijah among others. Even his disciples are blind to the full truth of who he is. Ironically, in the middle of the Gospel, only the demons he has come to destroy he has come to destroy recognize who he is – the Son of God.

For, you see, this Jesus does not look like the Son of God! First of all, he is baptized in the Jordan by John just like every other sinner who came in repentance to be baptized by this eccentric prophet.

Jesus' power is not what the world expects from a leader or hero or savior, much less what the world expects of God! For Jesus' power is a power that will be revealed in weakness, in humbleness, in humanness, in suffering, and in dying. His justice is not the justice of this world. It is not an eye for an eye. It is the justice of one willing to give his very life for the sake of another. His righteousness is not that of one who is zealous for a good cause or ready to do anything and everything for the sake of that cause. His righteousness is that of a humble heart set on faithful obedience to the will of the Father. His righteousness is centered in love toward God and neighbor, to friend and foe alike.

Mark knows that the secret of this suffering, weak, humble Son of God is a hard secret to hear and accept. At one point the disciples seem to come close to understanding when Jesus asks them: "Who do you say that I am?" and Peter responds: "You are the Christ!" Yet as the story unfolds, we learn that Peter still does not understand. As Jesus immediately begins to reveal the future he will face, a future that includes suffering, rejection, and death, Peter rebukes him. Peter does not yet understand that the Son of God must suffer and die. That is indeed a hard insight to learn. It is impossible to believe without the Spirit descending upon us also as we hear this Gospel.

Mark reveals the secret of Jesus' identity at the beginning. He wants us to know that Jesus is the Son of God when we hear that all hell breaks loose on Golgotha. No reasonable person could look at this pitiable man carrying his cross and say: "This is the Son of God." Mark wants us to remember the secret revealed at Jesus' baptism. When we hear that even the devout people of Jesus' day spit in his face and call him blasphemous, Mark wants us to remember the secret. When we hear that the Roman soldiers turn his trial into a fraternity party, dressing Jesus in a purple robe and placing a crown of thorns on his head, Mark wants us to remember these opening words of the Gospel. When we hear that the soldiers drove spikes into his flesh and taunted him to come down from the cross, Mark wants us to remember who Jesus is. There, at the end, with the sky dark, the air filled with Jesus' death cry, and the temple curtain torn in two, Mark wants us to remember this day, three years earlier when the skies, like the temple curtain, were town in two and a voice spoke from heaven to this one coming up out of the River Jordan. Mark wants us to hear the centurion at the foot of the cross confessing the secret which we have known from the beginning: "Truly this man is the Son of God."

The incongruity of experience and reality are brought together in the secret Mark wants to reveal to us. The one who appears to be rejected is in reality the one in whom God is well-pleased. The one who appears to be deserted by all is in reality the beloved Son of the Father, whom wll the heavenly hosts eternally worship and adore. The one who is the servant is the chosen one in whom the Father delights. The one who is powerless in death is the one through whom all was made and in whom all shall live. This is the revelation we hear and celebrate this day.

As we saw this week we live in a world on the brink of lawlessness and violence. We live in a world where each side thinks it has the whole truth, that what it thinks is the only right way, that its cause is the only way. Power seems to lie with the one with the most weapons or the most power to disable the other. Power is often associated with wealth, status, possessions. Could it be that we are all deceived by appearances? That reality is something else? Could it be that real, true righteousness and justice lie outside ourselves and our definitions? Mark, the apostles, the church throughout the ages direct our attention somewhere else. We are called to see in this one baptized in the Jordan, crucified on Golgotha, and raised to sit at the right hand of the Father the one who is brother to Jew and Gentile, to Republican and Democrat, to citizen and alien, to rich and poor, to the insider and the outsider. The One who has fulfilled God's promise to Abraham has opened the kingdom of heaven to all peoples and nations! Might does not make right. Right is found in the humble graciousness of the one baptized by John and declared to be the one in whom God is well pleased. As we look at the one whom the world crucified we see in the faces of friends and foes alike our brothers and sisters, for this One has come to bind us all together in the love of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The heavens have opened and we have seen the future. We have been made children of God through this one announced to be the Son of God. We are all hallowed by his presence among us. We now see reality through the eyes of faith. We now see one another through the eyes of the Son of God. We now know the future – the outcome of the story. The future, our future, comes through the strange power, the alien righteousness, the selfless love of Jesus the Son of God. It is his love, his power, his righteousness which will triumph, all appearances to the contrary. Blessed are those with eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to hope and trust the one declared at the Jordan to be "My beloved Son."

We welcome Pastor Judy McKee who is presiding and preaching at our services today.

**2021 Flower Chart**—The 2021 flower chart is posted on the Springettsbury vestibule bulletin board. The cost of the flowers is \$30 per vase. You are welcome to sign up to provide one or both vases. After you have signed up, simply make a check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and mark it altar flowers. This is a great way to honor someone, celebrate a milestone in life, or remember a loved one. The flowers may be taken home with you at the conclusion of the 10:30 AM liturgy or you may have them given to someone who is sick, shut it, or hospitalized. If you wish, you can contact the office to reserve a date, and to provide us with all of the correct information for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. In advance, thank you.

## In our prayers we remember...

Jannette Guetersloh, Erin and Jack Mangan, Denise Appel, The David Snyder Family, Oonuash, Jenny Zimmerman, Rick & Candy Hutton, Connie Reed, Deborah Fulton, Reid Weinbrom, Darrell Kopp, Shawn Sunday, Mike Johnston, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, David List, Jessica Ericson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacev.

## Food Pantry—January

Items needed: Jelly, peanut butter, mashed potato mix, stuffing mix, canned beans. Anvone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry".

**2021 Offering booklets** are available in the lobby on Springettsbury Ave.. Remember to pick yours up. Feel free to deliver booklets to those who are staying at home.



The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God

#### **STAFF**

Pastor Youth Director Organist, Choir Director Bookkeeper Secretary Sexton Preschool Director

Kelly Moore-Spencer Victor Fields Dale Zeiger Patee Pizzirusso Ted Weikert Deb Becker

Reverend Stanley Reep prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net dzeiger.stpaulsyork@comcast.net st.paulsyork@comcast.net st.paulsyork@comcast.net director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

#### **CREATE**

Beginning January 19, 2021 CREATE will be held on Tuesday evenings via Zoom. Ages 2 through grade 1 will be held 6:00pm till 6:30pm. Grades 2 through Grade 6 will be 6:45pm through 7:15pm.

Prior to January 19 each participant will receive a group of packets, each containing all the supplies that are needed for the des-



ignated weekly lesson. The Zoom sessions will include Bible Stories, Church Seasons, Holidays, Crafts and Art Projects. You can also do these sessions on your own with your children. Families will receive a letter with all details the first week of January. Please let me know if you are interested in being part of CREATE Zoom. Packets will be ready for pick up or delivery by January 10. Miss Kelly

# 2021 Calendar Sale It's not too late to get your copy!

Make sure you get your copies of the 2021 calendar! They feature the watercolor paintings of Pastor Reep. The images highlight the beautiful cottages from the grounds of the Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua NY (painted during summer 2019) and fruits and flowers still life arrangements (painted during 2020). We ask for a minimum donation of \$20. All proceeds go to the Capital Campaign. The original paintings will be auctioned at our October



16<sup>th</sup> 2021 event. Thank you for supporting this fundraising effort.

#### **Adult Faith Formation**

What Can We Learn from Dietrich Bonhoeffer About Living With the Word? Join Bishop Carol Hendrix, retired, in conversations on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We will be looking briefly at Bonhoeffer's writings about daily meditating on the Word, the Psalms as our prayerbook, and the Sermon on the Mount as direction from the Word made Flesh for a life of discipleship. Classes will be on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 PM on January 27, February 3 and 10. No prereading required. Contact Patty Snyder 717-578-2253 or the church office 717-843-8155 to register and receive the Zoom link.



## FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5

In 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.

#### Psalm 29

## SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

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." 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.

#### GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

John 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. 6 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. 8I 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. 10 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."