JESUS CAME TO JOHN AT THE JOHOAN, TO BE BAPTIZED MATTHEW 3:13

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155 Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

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 186 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Postlude It is our tradition to remain seated for the postlude. If you need to leave we ask that you do so reverently. This tradition developed as a result of our livestream. We want anyone viewing to be able to listen to the postlude without unnecessary distraction. Thank you.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

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

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors. The 10:30AM liturgy is livestreamed into the Nursery. Currently, we are working to secure volunteer staff for the Nursery. Carrie Oberholtzer is coordinating a schedule. Please contact the office to volunteer.

Today's Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God in memory of Margie & Richard Martin by the family.



You may get information regarding closures at our website www.stpaulsyork.org or on our Facebook page St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George.

Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Wearing a mask while in worship is optional, recommended or required based on the CDC guidelines. Green/Optional, Yellow/Recommended, Red/Required. The instruction will be posted on the entry doors. Please be sure to bring a mask in the event of required/recommended masking. Disposable masks are available at the entrance to the church nave.

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, Norma Shue, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, January 8, 2023 Holy Communion 8:00 AM & 10:30AM

PRELUDEAll Who Believe and Are Baptized

Richard Proulx

Stand turning to face the font

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 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.

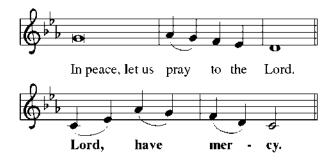
Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

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.

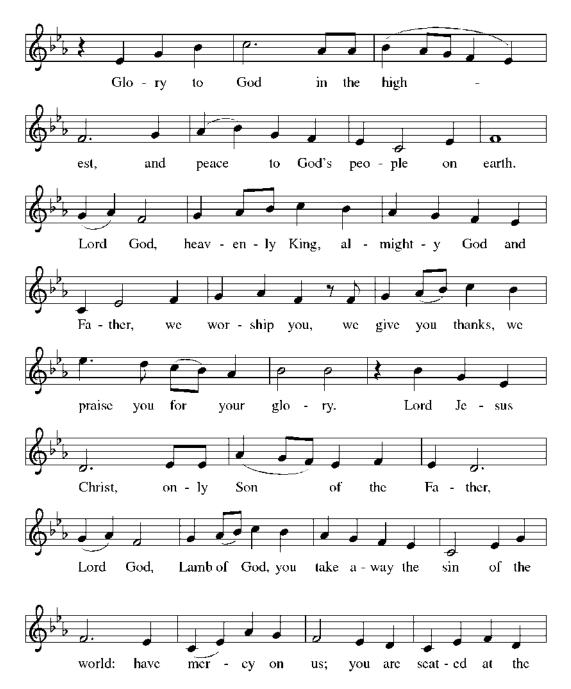
KYRIE



Continued on next page...



HYMN OF PRAISE





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**

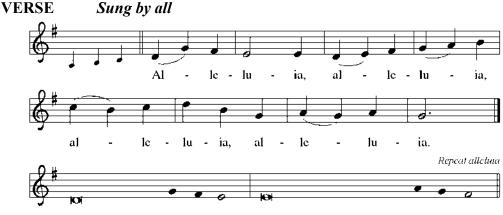
CHILDREN'S SERMON

Sit

- **FIRST READING** Isaiah 42:1-9 (back cover)
- Psalm 29 spoken responsively by whole verse **PSALMODY** ¹ Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,* ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength. ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;* worship the LORD in the beau- | ty 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 pow- | erful 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 ce- | dars of Lebanon; ⁶ he makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,* and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox. ⁷ The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire; the voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness:* the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. ⁸ The voice of the LORD makes the | oak trees writhe* and strips the | forests bare. ⁹ And in the temple | of the LORD* all are | crying, "Glory!" ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;* the LORD sits enthroned as | king forevermore. ¹¹ The LORD shall give strength | to his people;* the LORD shall give his people the bless- | ing of peace.

SECOND READING Acts 10:34-43 (back cover)

Stand



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew At the conclusion of the Gospel. The Gospel of the Lord.

(back cover) Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit **SERMON**

Pastor Reep

Stand

Songs of Thankfulness & Praise (ELW 310) HYMN OF THE DAY 1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee raise; we 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-ct, priest, and king su - preme: mak - ing whole weak - ened bod - y, 3 Man - i - fest in faint - ing soul; 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - lv word: man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far, wed - ding guest thy God-head man - i - fest; and at Ca - na in man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might; im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou; grace to Da - vid's stem thy birth at Beth - le - hem: branch of roy - al in man - i - fest pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine; in man - i - fest gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill: in we might be - come like thee thy great c - piph - a - ny, that at an - thems be to thee ad-dressed. an - thems be thee ad-dressed, to God in flesh made man-i - fest. an - thems be thee ad-dressed. to and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead. and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Lord, God, 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.

Cleanse and protect oceans, rivers, and watersheds (*local water sources may be named*). Bring relief to parched lands and to communities without access to safe water. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

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.**

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*).). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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 through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you. The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

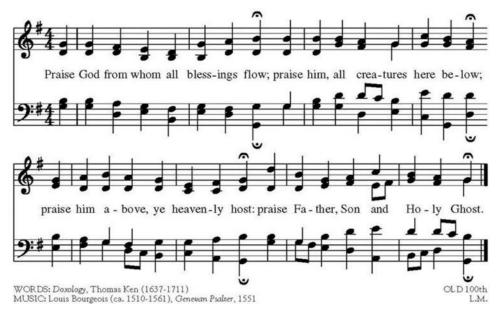
Sit

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

On Jordan's Bank Claudio Moneverdi Cheryl Reifsteck, Andrew Jones, violin

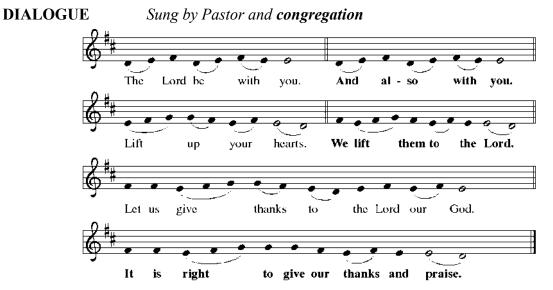
DOXOLOGY



OFFERTORY PRAYER

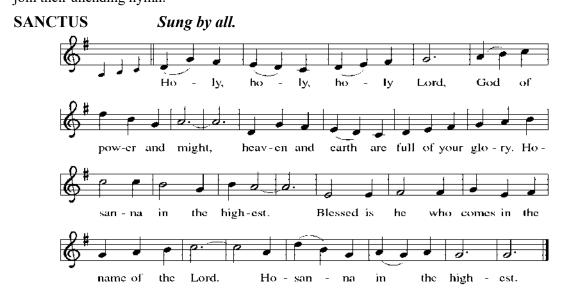
Let us pray. Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, O God, now and forever. Amen.

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

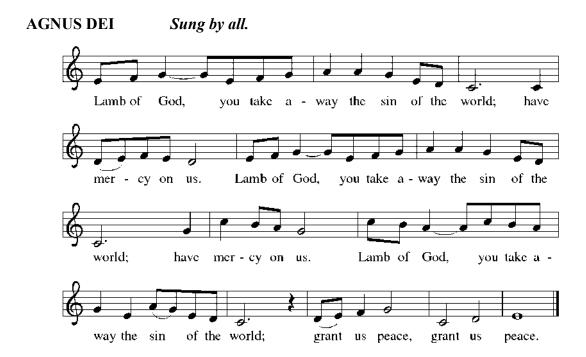
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.



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

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Our Communion is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

1. Come to communion using the center aisle (about 10 adults per side).

2. Communion glasses are placed on credence tables at the front pews (left and right side).

3. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.

4. Take your place along the chancel step. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.

5. Extend your hands to receive the communion host.

6. Consume the communion host.

7. Hold the communion glass with both hands at chest height so that the communion assistant can easily pour the wine into the glass.

8. Consume the wine before you leave the chancel edge.

9.Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle. 10.Return to your pew using the side aisle.

COMMUNION HYMN

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized (ELW 304) next page

Stand

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, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. Amen

HYMN Let All Things Now Living (ELW 881) next page

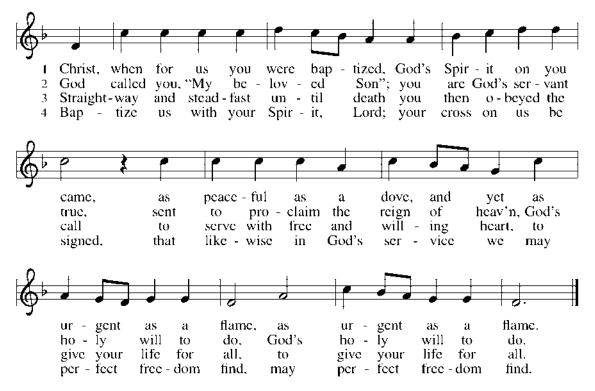
DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Songs of Thankfulness and Praise Robert A. Hobby

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Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized



Let All Things Now Living



News and Updates January 8, 2023

Church Offering Envelopes are ready for you to pick up in the Good Shepherd Room.

2023 Calendars are available for a requested donation of \$20.00. They make wonderful Christmas gifts! All proceeds go towards the purchase of a canopy for the Food Pantry.

2023 Flower Chart The 2023 flower chart is posted on the Springettsbury vestibule bulletin board. The cost of the flowers is **\$35 per vase**

GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD ENDS TODAY You may contribute quarters or specially marked offerings yet today. The 3^{rd} - 6^{th} grades Sunday school class eagerly awaits news of the total contributions, so they can select and buy the farm animals they'd like to give to family farmers in the world. We can look forward to hearing of their selections.

The Long-term Recovery Committee of the York County VOAD is seeking volunteers to make calls to local homeowners who may still have unmet needs following Hurricane Ida. On Saturday, January 7th and Sunday, January 8th, a phone-a-thon will take place at the York County Office of Emergency Management. All volunteers will be provided with a script to use to reach out to our neighbors who may still be in need. If you are able to spend an hour or two (longer is okay, too) doing this important outreach, please contact Pastor Glenn Beard, Lower Susquehanna Synod LDR Network Coordinator at (717) 471-1067 or <u>gbeard@luthercare.org</u>. Pastor Beard and other VOAD leaders will be present both days to assist with answering any questions or concerns. You may remember that we collected funds in Lent for this important work. Please call Pastor Snyder (717) 880-03502 if you have questions.

Confirmation Instruction Resumes with Winter Term, Sunday January 15—The Bible Confirmation students will resume their time of study on January 15 at 9:15 AM in the Youth Room



Food Pantry—January Items needed: Rice (1 or 2 lb bags), dehydrated potatoes,

powdered milk, tomato sauce and soup. We also need paper grocery bags with handles.

Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh, Patty Snyder, 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".

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE		Assist- ing Min- ister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Altar Clean-up	Acolyte
01/08	8:00 AM	Ken Hinkle		Bob Reed	Tim Yakim		Alex Bastian, Michael Poster	Lois Ann Schroed- er, Kathy Monk	
01/08		Tristan Ericson	Janet Fitch	William Snyder	Patty Snyder	Sue Kopp		Janet & Larry Moore	Jacklyn Kinkella, Anna Herdson

This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Mon-Thurs

Sunday, January 8 Baptism of Our Lord

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 9:15 AM Lutheran Camping Corporation presentation and Breakfast
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
- 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Monday, January 9

7:00 PM Council Meeting—Christ Hall

Tuesday, January 10

- 9:30 AM Pantry
- 6:00 PM CREATE—Art, Crafts and Music for Children age 3 through grade 6

Wednesday, January 11

- 10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor-Nave
- 10:30 AM Scripture Study

Thursday, January 12

- 10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor-Nave
- 6:30 PM Handbell Choir\
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, January 15

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
- 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

STAFF				
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net		
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net		
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net		
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	Imccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com		
Children's Choir Director	Julianna Jones	Jjones.stpaulsyork@gmail.com		
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net		
Sexton	Ted Weikert	st.paulsyork@comcast.net		
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com		

The Baptism of Our Lord A 2023

Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights."

At the Jordan River Jesus comes to John the Baptist to be baptized. John thinks that it should be the other way around that he should be coming to Jesus. A dialogue ensues at which point John stops questioning Jesus and consents to do the baptizing. Jesus is baptized and as only the gospel writer Matthew can say "all righteousness is fulfilled." Matthew is making known that Jesus, in the wilderness, is the servant, the Messiah, the one longed for and anticipated. Here at the Jordan River we hear the voice from heaven "*This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.*" God's word is fulfilled.

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights."

At the house of Cornelius, Peter speaks of the impartial quality of God. This was a foreign concept in a time when it seemed to be very clear that some people were "in" and some people were "out." Some people were favored while others were not. At least it was that way among the Italian Cohort with whom Cornelius associated. Peter preached that God's "good news" of Jesus was for all people, every nation, and no limits were to be placed upon those believing in him. Cornelius and his household are baptized and God's word is fulfilled.

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights."

About 500 years before the birth of Jesus, King Cyrus was coming into power. His reign was different. He took a detour from the warring ways of his predecessors and was willing to try a different kind of approach to civil leadership. He let the people of Israel go free. He loosed them from their captivity in Babylon. They were free to return back to Jerusalem, back to their land and to their people and to their way of monotheistic worship. This anticipated longing for God's captive people, was fulfilled.

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights."

With servanthood comes the task to which one is appointed. The biblical witness clearly states that the task of the servant is to bring forth and to establish justice. Not just for some but for all. God's justice, the English word translated from a Hebrew word that has far deeper and far reaching aspects associated with it, is a mighty big task for which to be called. God's justice has to do with compassion, justice that is tempered with God's will and desire for the whole universe. God's justice is not chaotic. It is orderly. It leads people away from waring. It leads people toward healing. In the gospel of Matthew there are tangible signs of such compassionate justice, the gospel writer uses words such as; clothing, kindness, hospitality.

King Cyrus brings forth justice that was a radical departure from his predecessors. Peter proclaims God's justice by showing no partiality between Jew and Gentile. Jesus brings forth justice through his earthly ministry to tax collectors, prostitutes, lepers, sinners, people who thought they were "out" but he invites them "in." This is a radical departure from other religious leaders of that time. Through the years we have had the joy and delight of celebrating the sacrament of Holy Baptism on this day. On such occasions we rejoice in the delight of God's forgiveness, God's welcoming, God's setting things right and making the baptismal candidate part of God's family. We use language calling the newly baptized, coworker with us in God's kingdom. We proclaim the new child of God as numbered among God's servants.

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights."

At the font there is no distinct mention of special virtues or phenomenal qualities. This morning we hear again how God is the Divine initiator, God delights not in some special quality or virtue but, echoing the song of the Christmas angels "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" God's favor is for; the whole earth, all nations, all people, God's favor for you.

Eight days into this new calendar year you may not be feeling the favor or the delight. You may have disappointed others, you may have disappointed yourself. New Year's resolutions may already be history, chucked, like my 2022 calendar into the trash bin. You might even be the one seeking out compassionate justice, rather than the one bringing it to fruition. Delight may be the furthest thing from your mind. But as disciples of the Lord Jesus, servants of the Lord, we are reminded that the Lord God delights in us, that the Lord God upholds us even when we are feeling fatigued, weak, and vulnerable, even at times like a failure. We are not left to our own cleverness or our own strength. God is the one who delights in us and upholds us, even when our task of bringing forth justice to the nations dim, our discipleship weighs heavily, and the joy of living seems to be a distant memory. You are chosen. You are upheld. You bring delight.

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights."

Who is this servant of whom the prophet speaks? Is it Cyrus of Persia, Peter of Galilee, Jesus from Bethlehem's manger, Nazareth's wood shop, and Calvary's cross? A servant is one upon whom God's Spirit is poured forth; Jesus at the Jordan River; Cornelius at his home; you and me through the Word and water of Holy Baptism either at this font or one similar at a different location. But the Spirt of God was poured out upon us.

"I have put my Spirit upon you" says the Lord God. In Holy Baptism you have been forgiven, claimed, sealed with oil, and marked with the cross of Christ forever. You are a disciple, a servant with a mission, a task to carry out, not in the ways of others, not in the ways of war, or taking advantage of the weak, or putting others down to make yourself look good. We are called to be in relationship with the Lord and with one another. And our task is to bring forth justice to the nations. There are many obstacles, many road blocks and detours; the task isn't popular, cool, neat, or easy. We are called into servanthood by the Servant, Christ Jesus, whose birth we have celebrated and in whose death and resurrection we are given life.

The bulk of 2023 is before us. There are many tasks beckoning to us; my prayer is that all of our tasks great and small will be accompanied with the harmony and peace of God's compassionate justice. Amen.

Baptism of Our Lord

January 8, 2023

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

Here 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.

Psalm 29

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter 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. 39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40 but 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."

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

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."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42.

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