

Sunday, January 10, 2021 Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pastor Gary Mikkelson

**Music – Glenda McGaffee
Lay Reader – Deb Warner
Video/Livestream – Rod Scholten**



CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Holy God,

C: you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin – our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come.

Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy.

Amen

P: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C: Amen

OPENING HYMN #876 "Let the Whole Creation Cry" (st. 1,2,3)

- 1.) **Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on High!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing, "Praise to our almighty king!"
Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice.**

- 2.) **Servants striving for the Lord, prophets burning with the word,
those to whom the arts belong add their voices to the song.
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law, to the glorious circle draw;
All who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"**

- 3.) **Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem loud and bold,
And let children's happy hearts in this worship take their parts;
From the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll;
"Holy, Holy, Holy One; glory be to God alone!"**

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

SCRIPTURES

FIRST READING: GENESIS 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 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. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Response: R: Word of God, Word of Life C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29 (Responsive reading)

R: Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

C: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

R: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

C: The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

R: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

C: the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

R: The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.

C: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

R: The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forest bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

C: The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.

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

SECOND READING: ACTS 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. 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.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' 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.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

Response: R: Word of God, Word of Life C: Thanks be to God

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,
Alleluia! alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

GOSPEL READING: MARK 1:4-11

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

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

SERMON

HYMN #451 "We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus" (st. 1,2,3)

- 1.) **We are baptized in Christ Jesus, we are baptized in his death;
that as Christ is raised victorious, we might live a brand new life.
And if we have been united in a dreadful death like his,
we will all be reunited for he lives.**

- 2.) **In the water and the witness, in the breaking of the bread,
in the waiting arms of Jesus who is risen from the dead,
God has made a new beginning from the ashes of our past;
in the losing and the winning we hold fast.**

- 3.) **Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,
glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one;
as it was in the beginning, glory now resounds again
in a song that has no ending.....Amen**

BLESSING AND INSTALLATION of the Bethlehem Call Committee:

As you hear your name read, please stand and move forward to the communion kneelers.

**Brandon Boeve, Ellen Fick, Al Leenderts, Tim Plimpton, Dawn Sandager,
Jil Vaughn. (Alternate: Shirley Sandager)**

P: My sisters and brothers in Christ, having offered yourselves to serve on the call committee of this congregation, will you follow our Lord's example of humble service?

Response: Yes, with God's help.

P: Will you be faithful in praying regularly for the help of the Holy Spirit to guide you in your work together?

Response: Yes, with God's help.

P: And you, the people of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, will you be faithful in praying regularly for the help of the Holy Spirit to guide your call committee?

Response: Yes, with God's help.

P: Let us pray;

PRAYERS OF PEOPLE: P: let us pray C: Have mercy, O God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN #771 "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" (st. 1&3)

- 1.) **God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space
we, your children in your likeness, share inventive pow'rs with you;
great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.**

3. **As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,
children of creative purpose, serving others, hon'ring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise; each endeavor well begun;
great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.**

DISMISSAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**** Bethlehem Annual Meeting, Sunday, Jan. 24th (following Worship Service)**

**** 2020 Giving statements have been mailed. If you have any questions about your statement, please call the church office @962-3270.**

**** Bethlehem-Flowerfield Cemetery meeting has been postponed till summer due to Covid.**