

Gathering Music

Quiet Prelude: Kaddish

Frederick Jacobi

Matthew Wahl, clarinet

When Jesus Came to Jordan

- 1 When Jesus came to Jordan
to be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon
but as the Sinless One.
He came to share repentance
with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence
with which good news begins.
- 2 He came to share temptation,
our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation
to die upon the cross.
So when the dove descended
on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended,
the age of grace began.
- 3 Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
to keep the vows we make;
this very day invade us,
and ev'ry bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection
that leads to Pentecost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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Invocation

P We gather for worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Call to Worship

P God of love, reigning over the universe and in our hearts,
we worship and praise you. Your power and glory are so vast and so great
that we could not hope to understand them were it not for your revealing
them:

C in - of all places - a stable and a new born Baby;

P in a pilgrim packed river - through - of all people -

C an animal-skinned, locust-eating baptizer;

P on a cross of wood - through of all things - an agonizing crucifixion.
All used to communicate the greatness of your love.

**C We praise and adore you, O God, for revealing your love for us
in Jesus and for renewing our lives with your Spirit.**

Confession

P God, we have failed to live into the promise of new life.

**C We have been afraid to enter troubled waters to help the poor
and downtrodden.**

**We have been afraid to walk with those who are less fortunate
than us.**

We have ignored the hungry and sick in our world.

**Forgive us when we have not lived for others,
when we have not been willing to risk ourselves
for the sake of others.**

**Call us into new life, a life that is lived in the promise of Your
love for the whole world.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

P In the darkness, light shines.
In the midst of trouble, a hand reaches out.
We are not alone on this journey of faith.
When we seek God, we shall find God.
God forgives, renews, and restores us.

C Thanks be to God.

Once again may we discover Word made flesh sent from above.
In our neighbor, sister, brother, in the lonely and unloved.
May we touch him, may we hold him, may we cradle him with care
As we learn to love each other, bringing hope from out despair.

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

- P We pray together.
- C Your voice called out over the deep and darkness and brought forth light.
Your voice called out over the waters and brought forth life.
Your voice called out over this earth and brought forth our very beings.
Your voice continues to call out in our universe and bring new hope and life.
Help us to hear Your voice in the cries of children, in the soft tones of the sick, in the pleas of the poor.
May we listen, hear and respond to Your voice in our lives and in our world.
In Your name we pray. Amen**

Sharing of the Peace

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

Fellowship Choir Anthem

Arise, Shine, For Thy Light Is Come
Healey Willan

Welcome

Pastor Olin Sletto

Children's Sermon

Pastor Olin Sletto

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

(Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring them home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.)

But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth —

⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Second Reading: Acts 8:14-17

(Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.)

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with love and mercy;
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

Good News: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

(The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.)

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon

The Spirit at the Center

Pastor Olin Sletto

Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized

1 Christ, when for us you were baptized,
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove, and yet
as urgent as a flame,
as urgent as a flame.

2 God called you, "My beloved Son";
you are God's servant true,
sent to proclaim the reign of heav'n,
God's holy will to do,
God's holy will to do.

3 Straightway and steadfast until death
you then obeyed the call
to serve with free and willing heart,
to give your life for all,
to give your life for all.

4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord;
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find,
may perfect freedom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.

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Apostles' Creed

P Let us boldly confess our faith before God.

C **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 *(*catholic means universal)*

MEAL

Offering Music

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Paul Manz

Matthew Wahl, organ

Offering Response

- 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
 this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
 this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

- 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
 ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
 ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Prayers of the People

The assisting minister will end each prayer petition with:

A Lord in your mercy,

The congregation will respond with:

C hear our prayer.

The prayers will end with:

P Lord Jesus, Light of the World,
 hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your Light,
 that the places of darkness in our world would be
 pierced by your Light,

and that all nations would be drawn to you
and be overwhelmed with joy.

C Amen

O Son of God, Incarnate Word, O Wisdom's
Light whom angels heard, come forth again, our hearts console.
O heal our hurts, and make us whole.

The Words of Institution

(spoken by Pastor Olin)

The Lord's Supper

P So, with those who ran to the river's side,
and those who immersed themselves in grace,
with our beloved sisters and brothers
in every time and place, we speak of your love:

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

The Lord's Prayer

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C 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**

Communion

- *Our table is open to all who wish to share in the sacrament.*
- *Non-communing children and adults are invited to receive a blessing.*
- *Please kneel if you are able or stand at the communion rail.*

- *If you would rather have grape juice, a wheat wafer or a gluten-free wafer, please let the communion assistant know.*

I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul;
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

Communion Music

Pastorale

Old 124th Psalm Tune

Healey Willan

(Please stand as you are able)

Blessing after Communion

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

C Amen

SENDING

Here at Jordan's River

Here at Jordan's river all is washed away.
God's reign draws nearer, nothing is the same.
Gone is class; gone are degrees and fame.
Grace alone can save us on God's judgment day.

We at Jordan's river meet on level ground.
Valleys are uplifted; mountains fall to earth.
None need doubt their worth or lineage.
Still the prophet asks us, "Will you turn around?"

God, reform, renew us; turn us to your will.
Till our hearts for learning; root us in your Word.
May our actions grow from all we've heard.
As we lose our old lives, God still be with us.

Benediction

P Almighty God, the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

C Amen

Sending Forth the People of God

P “Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name—you are mine!
When you go through deep waters and great trouble,
I will be with you.
When you go through rivers of difficulty,
you will not drown!
When you walk through the fire of oppression,
you will not be burned up;
the flames will not consume you.
For I am the Lord, your God,
the Holy One of Israel.
Do not be afraid, for I am with you.”
Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sending Music

Deo Gracias

Walter Pelz

Matthew Wahl, organ