

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 14, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of God the Creator, + Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Amen.

Just as God's work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from our tap, for rain and snow, for the Great Lakes, the Don, the Humber and the Rouge Rivers and their creeks.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

We give you thanks for your salvation through water.

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized, and for all who gather here; for godparents, for children and grandchildren, for our siblings in Christ whom we have never seen and to whom we are bound.

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters, for our new birth into a life of freedom and service, for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

**We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.
Amen.**

HYMN ELW # 304 CHRIST, WHEN FOR US YOU WERE BAPTIZED

**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.**

**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 Do To.**

**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.**

**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.**

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE ELW 322 OH, LOVE, HOW DEEP verses 1, 2 and 7
O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
beyond all thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake!

God sent no angel to our race,
of higher or of lower place,
but wore the robe of human frame,
In Christ our Lord to this world came.

All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad—
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forevermore.

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.
Amen.

WORD

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 29

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the glory of the Lord thunders,
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
The Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

The Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord
Bursts forth in lightening flashes.

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

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!"

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
The Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

O Lord give strength to your people;
Give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace!

ACTS 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN ELW # 453 BAPTIZED AND SET FREE

We are people created, chosen by God.

Then we're washed, ever gently, in mercy and love.

**Sin has power no more. Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing, and wholeness and more.**

We are fed and we're nourished, filled and refreshed.

Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed.

**For whatever the need, God is greater indeed:
endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need.**

**We are nourished by water, all living things,
and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings.**

**As we journey toward home, may your presence be known:
precious river, ever-flowing, now carry us home.**

Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song.

All are welcome! We gather to sing loud and strong.

**Not enslaved, but set free! From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water, baptized and set free!**

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world,
and all in need.

A brief silence

Calling God, you speak with power to your church. 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.**

Renewing God, you provide the waters of the earth, and in Jesus' baptism you reveal the waters of life. Cleanse and protect oceans, rivers and watersheds. Bring relief to parched lands and to communities without access to water. Give courage and strength to all enduring severe weather: rain, snow, cold temperatures, and severe winds.

Merciful God.....**receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you never weary of establishing justice. Increase co-operation and dialogue among the nations. May all the people of the earth know equity, vision and integrity. We pray for peacemakers everywhere and our global neighbours in Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Iran, Palestine and Israel.

Merciful God.....**receive our prayer.**

Abiding God, your mercy is steadfast. Give sanctuary to people fleeing oppression, war, poverty or famine. Sustain health care workers, caregivers, first responders, counsellors and all who help and heal. Comfort all who grieve, especially the family and friends of Bryan Takahashi and all experiencing crisis.

In our community we pray for Ingrid, Tom and all in our hearts.....

pause

Merciful God.....**receive our prayer.**

Blessing God, in Christ you gather the beloved community. Kindle the gifts of your Spirit in us. Accompany us, inspire us and show us your path of love in this place.

Merciful God.....**receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

The offering will now be received and may God bless the gifts of your life

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy God, through Christ our Lord.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh

you have opened the eyes of faith

to a new and radiant vision of your glory;

that, beholding the God made visible,

we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

Our Lord Jesus Christ,

in the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

Amen.

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.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and taste the joy of God! **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY COMMUNION

*you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words
"the body of Christ given for you" "the blood of Christ shed for you"*

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The God of glory dwell in you richly,
Name you beloved,
And shine brightly on your path;
And the blessing of Almighty God,
The Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit ,
Be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN ELW 543 GO, MY CHILDREN WITH MY BLESSING

Go, my children, with my blessing, Never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing - You are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.

**Here you heard my dear Son's story; Here you touched him, saw his
glory. Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.**

Go, my children, fed and nourished, Closer to me;

Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.

**Here my Spirit's power filled you; Here my tender comfort stilled
you. Go, my children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE