



Faith Lutheran Church

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,
and Caring through Christ***

John the Baptist

Sunday, June 24, 2018

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**For the Youth Trip
to Houston;
leaving tomorrow,
Monday, June 25**

CONFESSIOIN AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another. *(A brief silence.)*

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.**

**Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.**

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.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

P: John the Baptist is a unique figure in Christian memory, a hinge between the Old Testament prophets and the first Christian. In the gospel stories he recognizes Jesus as one greater than himself, one for whose coming he prepares the way. But still from his prison he asks if Jesus is truly the Expected One. He is a figure of perpetual Advent and in that way stands for all of us who may be Christian believers but still wait and wonder, discern, and doubt.

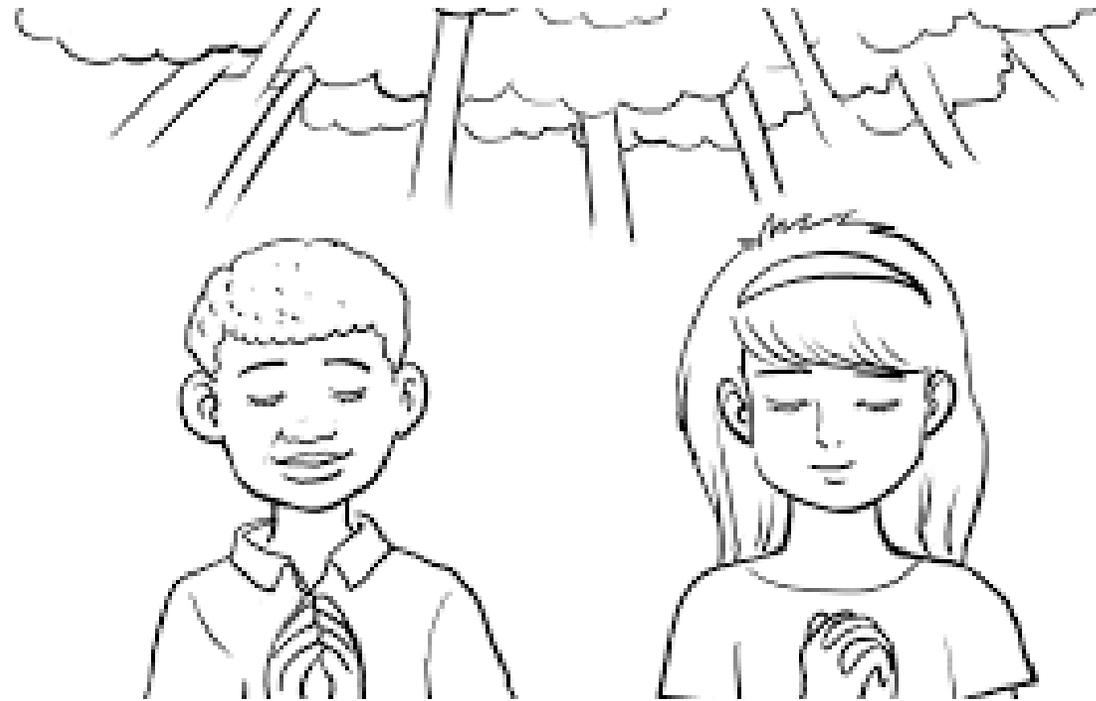
C: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)* Almighty God,

C: **by your gracious providence, your servant John the Baptist was born to Elizabeth and Zechariah. Grant to your people the wisdom to see your purpose and the openness to hear your will, that the light of Christ may increase in us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S CHURCH



FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi, the 3rd chapter.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, say the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like a fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A Responsive Reading From Psalm 141

R: O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;
hear my voice when I cry to you.

C: **Let my prayer rise before you as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the
evening sacrifice.**

R: Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
and guard the door of my lips.

**C: Let not my heart incline to any evil thing.
Let me not be occupied in wickedness with
evildoers, nor eat of their sweet foods.**

R: Let the righteous strike me; their rebukes,
as oil upon the head, are not to be refused.
Yet my prayers are continually against the
deeds of the wicked.

**C: Let their rulers be thrown down upon stones,
that they may hear my words,
for they are sweet.**

R: Just as one who tills the earth breaks the rock,
so let their bones be scattered at the mouth of
the grave.

**C: But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God;
in you I take refuge; strip me not of my life.**

- R: Guard me from the trap that they have laid for me and from the snares of evildoers.
- C: Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I alone pass through.**

SECOND READING: Acts 13:13-26

A reading from Acts, the 13th chapter.

Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. John, however, left them and returned to Jerusalem; but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it."

So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak: “You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance for about four hundred fifty years.

After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, "I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes.

Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised; before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his work, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet.'

My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent."

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:57-67

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now the time for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name."

Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea.

All who heard them pondered them and said,
“What then will this child become?” For, indeed,
the hand of the Lord was with him. The child
grew and became strong in spirit, and he was
in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly
to Israel.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Speaking with Boldness of Spirit”

HYMN OF THE DAY *“By All Your Saints”*

**By all your saints still striving,
for all your saints at rest.**

Your holy name, O Jesus, forevermore be blessed!

**For you arose victorious
that they might wear the crown
And share the light of glory,
reflected in your throne.**

**We praise you for the Baptist,
forerunner of the Word,
our true Elijah, making a highway for the Lord.
The last and greatest prophet,
he saw the dawning ray
of light that grows in splendor
until the perfect day.**

**Give praise to God Almighty,
and worship God the Son,
and sing to God the Spirit, eternal Three in One,
till all the ransomed number
fall down before the throne,
and honor, pow'r, and glory
ascribe to God alone.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

P: Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every place, praying for the world that God so loves. *(A brief silence.)* Holy God, you send messengers to purify and refine your people, and your hand was with John, who prepared the way for Jesus. Renew and embolden your church to share the message of salvation by the forgiveness of sins. Let the youth of our churches hear your love for them *(as they gather in Houston this coming week)*. Hear us O God,

C: **your mercy is great.**

P: Holy God, maker of heaven and earth and all things within them, bless this summer season and make us faithful stewards of your abundant provisions.

Hear us, O God.

C: your mercy is great.

P: Holy God, you do not leave your people defenseless. Guide the leaders of the nations so that they will be people after your own heart who carry out your wishes.
Guide our feet into the way of peace.
Hear us, O God.

C: your mercy is great.

P: Holy God, by your tender mercy the dawn from on high breaks upon us. Give the light of hope to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death so that they know your steadfast love.

We pray especially for....

Hear us, O God.

C: your mercy is great.

P: Holy God, watch over this community of faith and guard our hearts, minds, words, and actions. Inspire our youth to grow in faith. Keep in your care those who travel, those who are moving to a new home, and those who have no home.

Hear us, O God.

C: your mercy is great.

P: Holy God, you have looked favorably upon your people and have raised up a mighty savior for all in Jesus. Raise us up on the last day with all who have died in Christ (especially),
Hear us, O God,

C: **your mercy is great.**

P: By the sure guidance of your Holy Spirit,
O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and
thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The Peace of Christ be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

“I Then Shall Live”

by the Gaither Vocal Band

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING FOR THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

P: Today we bless and send these young people and adults as they leave for the ELCA Youth Gathering and encounter the Holy Spirit in new and amazing ways, We know that...

ALL: This changes everything.

P: We thank the Holy Spirit for calling you to travel, worship, serve, learn, and play alongside 30,000 other participants and those you will meet along the way.

Gathering Participants:

God's call changes everything.

P: In the Old Testament God told Joshua, “the Lord your God is with you whatever you go.” And in the New Testament, Jesus told his disciples, “...remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” We remind you, and ourselves, that God is speaking to us through these verses as well.

Gathering Participants:

God's love changes everything.

P: The writer of Ephesians tells us, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”

When you are challenged through this experience or when you doubt your strength and skills, remember that you are enough because of Christ.

Gathering Participants:

God's grace changes everything.

P: We already look forward to welcoming you home. As you realize how God has used this experience to transform you, know that we, your faith community, are ready to hear the new hope you have for the world, our community and church. We hope that you will be open to sharing your stories with us and that we will be open to being changed by the stories you tell.

Gathering Participants:

God's hope changes everything.

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, we thank you for calling these young people and the adult leaders who will accompany them to the ELCA Youth Gathering. As you have shown your love by sending your Son to Live among us, we pray that your Spirit help those we send also be an expression of your presence in the world. We know and we thank you that...

ALL: Jesus changes everything. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

**The Spirit sends us forth to serve;
we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.**

**We go to comfort those who mourn
and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream
and help the blind to see.**

**We go to be the hands of Christ,
to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life,
to do the loving deed.**

**Then let us go to serve in peace,
the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us;
we go in Jesus' name.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**