**Baptism of the Lord Sunday**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** ~

God is a God of power and strength!

God has created each of us

with tender care.

God is a God of majesty and awe!

God walks with each of us

every step of the way.

God is a God of glory and wonder!

God loves each of us

with tenderness and passion.

God calls us each by name.

God calls each of us

to unite in worship together!

**HYMN** *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven #66*

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,

to the throne thy tribute bring;

ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,

evermore God's praises sing.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise the everlasting King.

2. Praise the Lord for grace and favor

to all people in distress;

praise God, still the same as ever,

slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Glorious now God's faithfulness.

3. Father-like, God tends and spares us;

well our feeble frame God knows;

mother-like, God gently bears us,

rescues us from all our foes.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Widely yet God's mercy flows.

4. Angels in the heights, adoring,

you behold God face to face;

saints triumphant, now adoring,

gathered in from every race.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise with us the God of grace.

Text: Henry F/ Lytle (1834)

Music: John Goss (1869)

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 3: 21-22 (NRSV)

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22 and 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.”

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN** *Cares Chorus*

*#2215 Faith We Sing*

I cast all my cares upon you --.

I lay all of my burdens down at your feet,

And anytime that I don’t know what to do,

I will cast all my cares upon you.

Words & Music: Kelly Willard

Psalm 55:22; 1 Peter 5:7

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**PASTORAL PRAYER** ~ written by Rev Abi

God who shows no partiality,

show your blessings on all your people.

Send forth your justice for all to see.

Save us your people.

Empower us to preach and testify to your great love and mercy.

God who makes and keeps covenant with your people,

You called us to be a light to the nations,

to open the eyes that are blind,

to set the prisoners free,

Help us to answer your call that these things come to pass.

God of grace and glory,

We pray for those who suffer from pains and sorrows.

We pray for those whose hearts are broken.

We pray for those whose families are fractured.

We pray for those whose lives are ravaged by war.

We pray for those who struggle with poverty and starvation.

We pray for our brother and sisters in Christ

who are being martyred for their beliefs.

Thank you for hearing our prayers.

Thank you for pouring out your Spirit on your Son

and pouring your spirit out on us too.

May we too hear you say to us this day that

“This is my Beloved,

with whom I am well pleased.”

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us saying:

**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. Amen.**

**HYMN** *Cares Chorus*

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**OFFERING**

**SCRIPTURE** Psalm 29:1-4 (NRSV)

1 Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory of His name;

worship the Lord in holy splendor.

3 The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

the God of glory thunders,

the Lord, over mighty waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is powerful;

the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE***Listening to Mighty Waters*

Rev. David W. Brown

**REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS**

All people stand in need of the grace that God alone can give, and God has chosen through the ministries of the church to provide the means of grace to everyone in Christian Baptism. The renewal of this faith is made each time we witness the sacrament.

Baptism is the way to recall the gracious act of God by which we enter into Christ; are raised to walk in newness of life; and become a member of the family of God.

Water is a symbol of the Holy Spirit and the life-transforming grace Christ alone supplies**.**

We are especially moved to hear the gospel call again, and are urged to renew our profession of faith—

I invite all who are baptized to join in the Renewal of your Baptismal Covenant, responding as indicated:

Do you in the presence of God desire to renew the covenant which you made or which was made for you at your baptism?

**I do.**

Do you renounce evil and seek to walk in the life of faith as a person who trusts in God alone for life, strength and salvation?

**I do.**

Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, the Savior of the world; and do you declare him Lord of your life?

**I do.**

(POUR WATER INTO BAPTISMAL FONT)

**THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER**

Gracious God, we thank you that in every age you have made water a sign of your presence. In the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters and they became the source of all creation. You led your people through the waters of the Red Sea to their new land of freedom and hope. In the waters of the Jordan, your Son was baptized by John and anointed with your Spirit for his ministry of reconciliation. May this same spirit bless this water by which we remember our baptisms today, that we may be refreshed and renewed to walk faithfully as your disciples—buried and raised in Christ, strengthened by his resurrection to rejoice in you. Defend all who present themselves before you with your heavenly grace, and confirm within them the presence of your Holy Spirit; for we pray in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen

**SIGNS OF WATER AND BLESSING**

Remember that you are baptized, and be thankful!

**HYMN** *Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine #606*

1. Come, let us use the grace divine,

and all with one accord,

in a perpetual covenant

join ourselves to Christ the Lord;

Give up ourselves, thru Jesus' power,

his name to glorify;

and promise, in this sacred hour,

for God to live and die.

2. The covenant we this moment make

be ever kept in mind;

we will no more our God forsake,

or cast these words behind.

We never will throw off the fear

of God who hears our vow;

and if thou art well pleased to hear,

come down and meet us now.

Text: Charles Wesley (1762)

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906)

**BENEDICTION** ~ (based on Galatians 2:20)

Paul the apostle testified,

“It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.”

It is the grace of God which has called us together, and the grace of God that will lead us forth to live out our baptismal callings – our varied ministries – to the glory of God.

Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord, and the blessings of God; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit go with you and keep you for everlasting life. Amen.