

Sunday, January 7, 2023

Baptism of Jesus / Confirmation of Leah Sullivan

Service Theme

IT BEGINS WITH BAPTISM

At his Baptism, God revealed Jesus' identity as His Son and our Saviour. Thus Jesus began His public ministry as our Christ. God gave us a new identity at our baptisms. Having clothed us with Christ by awakening faith in our hearts, God the Father declared us to be his children and gave us the Holy Spirit. Because of Christ's work, we are free and new. We belong to God. Let us, therefore, live in the grace God showed us at our Baptisms by living to His glory.

Order of Service

GATHERING RITE

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.



Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther,
I claim a place, though weak and low - ly, A - mong your



Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
saints, your cho - sen host, Bur - ied with Christ and dead to



sin. Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

M: I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

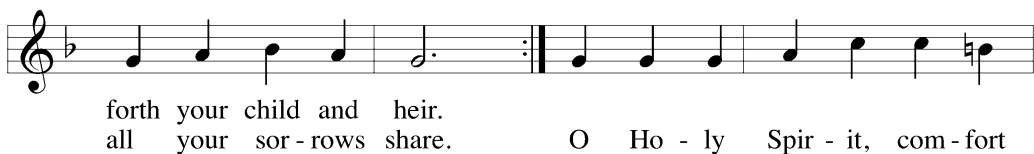
C: **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.** *(John 3:5,6)*

M: Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us. *(Psalm 51:5)*

C: **But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** *(1 Corinthians 6:11)*



My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me To be hence -
My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me The fruit of



forth your child and heir.
all your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it, com - fort



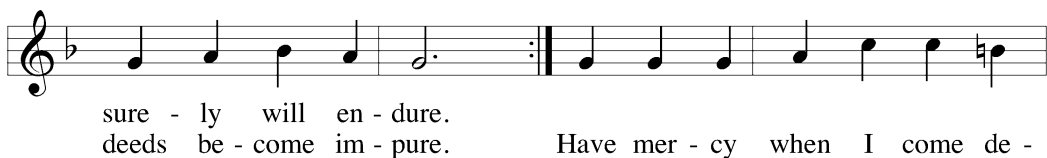
me When threat - 'ning clouds a - round I see.

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; Your pro - mise
Oh, cast me not a - way for - ev - er If words and



sure - ly will en - dure.
deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I come de -



filed; For - give, lift up, re - store your child.

M: Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (*Ephesians 5:25-27*). Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) Amen.

All that I am and love most dear - ly— Re - ceive it
 Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly, And help me

all, O Lord, from me.
 your own child to be! Let noth - ing that I am or

own Serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

First Lesson

Romans 6:1-11 (EHV)

St. Paul connects our baptism to Christ, and he discusses the results of that connection in our lives.

What shall we say then? Shall we keep on sinning so that grace may increase? ²Absolutely not! We died to sin. How can we go on living in it any longer? ³Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him by this baptism into his death, so that just as he was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too would also walk in a new life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united with him in the likeness of his resurrection.

⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him, to make our sinful body powerless, so that we would not continue to serve sin. ⁷For the person who has died has been declared free from sin. ⁸And since we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that since Christ has been raised from the dead, he will never die again. Death no longer has control over him. ¹⁰For the death he died, he died to sin once and for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹In the same way also consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased. Alleluia. (Mark 1:11)

C: *(sing)* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:4-11 (EHV)

Jesus public ministry begins with the anointing he received in his baptism.

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. ⁶John was clothed in camel's hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He preached, "One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! ⁸I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰Just as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you."

M: This is the Gospel of the LORD.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn

CW 336 "Come unto Me, Ye Weary"

1 "Come unto me, ye weary,
And I will give you rest."
O blessed voice of Jesus,
Which comes to hearts oppressed!
It tells of benediction,
Of pardon, grace, and peace,
Of joy that has no ending,
Of love that cannot cease.

2 "Come unto me, ye wand'ers,
And I will give you light."
O loving voice of Jesus,
Which comes to cheer the night!
Our hearts were filled with sadness,
And we had lost our way;
But thou hast brought us gladness
And songs at break of day.

3 "Come unto me, ye fainting,
And I will give you life."
O cheering voice of Jesus,
Which comes to aid our strife!
The foe is stern and eager;
The fight is fierce and long;
But thou hast made us mighty
And stronger than the strong.

4 "And whosoever cometh,
I will not cast him out."
O patient love of Jesus,
Which drives away our doubt,
Which, though we be unworthy
Of love so great and free,
Invites us very sinners
To come, dear Lord, to thee!

Sermon Text & Theme

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV84)

Come and take what Jesus offers you:

- 1) Rest for your soul.
- 2) A yoke that is light.

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Hymn

CW 599 "Our Lord and God, Oh, Bless This Day"

**1 Our Lord and God, oh, bless this day
And hear us, we implore you;
None of your children turn away
Who now appear before you.
We come before your face
And pray: let your rich grace
Descend from heav'n above
In all your wondrous love,
And keep us by your Spirit.**

**2 Oh, bless your Word to all the young;
Let them, your truth possessing,
Bear witness true with heart and tongue,
Their faith and ours confessing.
From mother's arms your grace
With love did them embrace.
Baptized into your name,
As yours you did them claim;
O Lord, as yours now own them!**

**3 And when they leave their childhood home,
When Satan comes alluring,
May their baptismal grace become
A refuge reassuring.
God's covenant is sure;
His promises endure.
They ne'er shall be undone
Who trust in God alone—
God is their mighty Father!**

**The Rite of Confirmation with Catechetical
Examination**

M: Sister in Christ, our Lord Jesus said to his disciples: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In obedience to the Lord's command, you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You have been taught the precious truths of the Christian faith as confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. You know what God has given you by his grace and what he expects of you as his dear child. You now have the privilege of receiving the Lord's body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The apostle Paul, writing to the Romans, said: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions.

Examination

- 1) Do you know the Ten Commandments? What are they?
- 2) What does God say about all these commandments?
- 3) Do you believe that you are a sinner?
- 4) How do you know that you are a sinner?
- 5) What do you deserve from God because of your sins?
- 6) Do you also have the certain hope of salvation?
- 7) Who do you trust in for your salvation?
- 8) What has Jesus done for you that you trust in Him?
- 9) How do you know that Jesus died for you and shed His blood to save you from your sins?
- 10) Do you know the Apostles' Creed? How does it go?
- 11) How many Gods are there?
- 12) Who is the only true God?
- 13) What does Jesus give you in the Lord's Supper?

- 14) Do you believe that Jesus gives you His actual body and blood in the Lord's Supper, or are the bread and wine only symbols and not really Jesus' body and blood?
- 15) What are the words of Jesus that teach you that the Lord's Supper gives you the body and blood of Jesus to eat and to drink?'
- 16) Does the Lord's Supper strengthen your faith in Jesus?
- 17) Does it strengthen you to love others as Christ loves you?
- 18) Do you know the Lord's Prayer? How does it go?
- 19) Concerning Holy Baptism, can you finish these words of Jesus?

Matthew 28:19: "**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations ...** "

Mark 16:16: "**Whoever believes ...** "

- 20) Concerning Confession and the Office of the Keys, can you finish these words of Jesus?

John 20:22-23: "**The Lord Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit ...** "

Confirmation Promises

M: Having heard your confession of the doctrines you have learned, we now invite you to publicly confess your faith:

M: Do you this day, in the presence of God and of this congregation, acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?

R: **I do.**

M: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

R: **I do.**

M: Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, as you confessed in the Apostles' Creed?

R: **Yes**

M: Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?

R: **I do.**

M: Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God?

R: **I do.**

M: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R: **I do, and I ask God to help me.**

M: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word, to be faithful in the use of the Word and sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?

R: **I do, and I ask God to help me.**

(The minister addresses the congregation)

M: Since it is God alone who enables us both to will and to do his good pleasure, it is right for us, dear friends in Christ, to call on him for *this confirmand*, that he would graciously complete the good work which he has begun in *her*. Let us, therefore, bow our heads and pray.

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for your great goodness in bringing *this daughter* of yours to the knowledge of your Son, Jesus Christ, and in giving *her* both a heart to believe and mouth to confess his saving name. Enable *her* to bring forth the fruits of faith and to continue steadfast and victorious until the day comes when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(The confirmand is personally blessed)

M: Leah Noelle Sullivan, may God, who began a good work in you, bring it to completion at the coming of our Lord Christ Jesus.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

M: Your church now invites you to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's Table as a precious privilege given you by God through his Church; receive this Sacrament thankfully and often. The almighty and most merciful God—Father, Son, † and Holy Spirit—bless and keep you.

C: Amen

Hymn

CW 735 "Speak, O Lord"

**1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
To receive the food of your Holy Word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All your purposes for your glory.**

**2 Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail,
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

**3 Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, as your Church is built
And you fill the earth with your glory.**

Confession and Absolution
(Please stand)

M: My fellow disciples, in the Lord's Supper, Jesus is coming to us in a very special way: as we receive the bread and the wine of communion, Jesus is present to give us his actual body and blood, and to pronounce forgiveness to each one of us personally. Because of the Lord's presence and his forgiveness in communion, the Apostle Paul wrote, "*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.*" (1 Corinthians 11:28) Therefore, before the Lord comes to meet with us, let us honestly ask ourselves before God who knows our hearts:

- 1) Do you confess that you have sinned against God and deserve his anger and punishment? If so, then answer, "I do confess!"

C: I do confess!

M: It is good for you to confess because God's word says, "*When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.*" (Psalm 32:3)

- 2) Are you sorry for the sins you have committed against God by things you have done, said and thought, and by the things you have failed to do? If so, then answer, "I do repent!"

C: I do repent!

M: It is right for you to repent because God's Word says, "*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not within us.*" (1 John 1:8)

- 3) Do you now believe that God will forgive you and save you for the sake of Jesus' perfect life and redeeming death? If so, then answer, "I do believe!"

C: I do believe!

M: It is right for you to believe because Jesus himself says, *“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16)

4) Do you now promise by the power of the Holy Spirit to make every effort to turn away from sin and live for your Lord? If so, then answer, “I do so promise!”

C: I do so promise!

M: It is right for you to promise because God’s Word says, *“Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”* (Matthew 3:8)

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M: As repentant and forgiven sinners, we now come to meet with our Lord.

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us and grant us your peace. Amen.

Distribution

Thanksgiving

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Prayer for our Youth

Heavenly Father, you have gathered people of all ages into the communion of saints. Today we thank you especially for the gift of young people to your Church. We come before you today and ask that you keep them in your care.

Protect them from the perils and temptations common to youth. Help them resist the pressure to engage in godless and immoral activity. When they become confused, show them the way. When they hurt, bind up their wounds. When they fail, restore them according to your mercy and keep the cross of Christ before their eyes.

Bless them with good friends, competent teachers, faithful ministers, caring parents, supportive homes, and life-enriching experiences. According to your wisdom, spare them from the perils of unexpected tragedy, severe illness, violent crime, a broken home, or an untimely death.

Be with our children as they continue to mature. Teach them the value of honest labor and faithful stewardship. Guide and direct them as they prepare for their life's vocations. Remind them that their highest joy is found in using talents and abilities in service to you.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Most of all, dear Lord, we ask you to keep this and every generation faithful to your truth. Strengthen believers through regular use of Word and sacrament. Open our mouths to share the gospel with friends and acquaintances, that each new generation may know the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

C: **Amen.**

Hymn

CW 334 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!**

Announcements

Church Cleaners:

January 7 - Mark // January 21 - Thomas

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (7)** 9:00 am Sunday School & Bible Class
10:30 am **Worship, Confirmation & Communion**
11:30 am First Fellowship
- We (10) 6:30 pm "Test the Spirits" Bible Information Class.
- Th (11) 6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul's)
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- Fr (12) 4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)
6:30 pm Friday Fellowship
- Su (14)** **9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class**
10:30 am **Worship**
12:00 pm Divine Sisters
3:00 pm **Worship in Poltimore**
- Tu (16) pm pm Elders Meeting
- We (17) 6:30 pm "Test the Spirits" Bible Information Class.
- Th (18) 6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul's)
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- Fr (19) 4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)
- Su (21)** **9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class**
10:30 am **Worship & Communion**
3:00 pm **Worship in Poltimore**



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