



PRELUDE

Aria on WINCHESTER NEW

Bruce Neswick

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ONE: In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

MANY: AMEN

ONE: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

MANY: AMEN

ONE: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

ONE: Most merciful God,

MANY: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. AMEN

ONE: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

MANY: AMEN

1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
 2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
 3 Straight- way and stead- fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
 4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be

came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
 true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
 call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
 signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may

ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
 ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
 give your life for all, to give your life for all.
 per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ONE: Heavenly Father,

With joy and awe we praise you for claiming us as your sons and daughters, and for pouring your Holy Spirit upon us. Help us to prepare this earth for your glory, and shine your light on all your faithful children, for the sake of the one whose birth and baptism brought renewal and transformation to this world, Jesus Christ.

MANY: AMEN

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:1-22

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

5

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

6

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

10 And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” 11 In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” 13 He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” 14 Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John 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. 17 His 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.”

18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. 19 But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, 20 added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

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.”

ONE: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

MANY: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Kjell M. Ferris

Open our eyes, Lord;
 We want to see Jesus,
 To reach out and touch him,
 And say that we love him.

Open our ears, Lord,
 and help us to listen.
 Open our eyes, Lord,
 we want to see Jesus.

APOSTLES' CREED

ONE: Let us confess our faith in the triune God-with-us:

**MANY: 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

ONE: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

silence

ONE: Light of the World, you shine in the midst of turmoil and strife. Give us eyes to see your presence in the world and courage to participate in your mission of love. Bless the Peace Lutheran community as we seek to be your light in our community. Hear Us, O God,

MANY: your mercy is great.

ONE: Light of the World, you were named beloved in the waters of baptism. Help us to see your creation as beloved. Open our hearts and minds to live sustainably, abundantly, and joyfully within the world you have so graciously given. Hear Us, O God,

MANY: your mercy is great.

ONE: Light of the World, you valued the outcast by listening to them and going to their homes. Help us to joyfully share in your ministry of bringing hope to the world. Give us wisdom to see how to live out your peace and justice in our nation. Hear Us, O God,

MANY: your mercy is great.

ONE: Light of the World, there are many among us who hurt in body, soul, and mind. Open us to their struggles, empower us to sustain them in their time of need, and grant them comfort. Both aloud and in the silence of our hearts we name those we know in need of your care before you now... all who are suffering from the COVID pandemic, all who are working for health and healing, the leaders of our nation...

ONE: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

MANY: AMEN

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you all.

MANY: And also with you.

ONE: Let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

OFFERING

Come, Beloved of the Maker

David and Susan Cherwien

*Come, beloved of the Maker,
come, behold the Firstborn One;
see revealed creation's splendor
crowned in glory like the sun.*

*See the Morningstar now beckon
to those bound to doubt and night;
"Follow me," Christ calls in welcome,
"come from darkness into light."*

*Follow to the birth of newness;
follow to the life of peace;
follow to the hill of anguish;
follow to the garden bliss.*

*There we too will burn and brighten,
God's resplendent work begun;
glory will ascend and heighten,
crowning us with glorious sun.*

*Christ, bright image of the Maker,
God, whose glory none may pass,
Spirit, sun of love and splendor,
bear us into light at last.*

OFFERING PRAYER

ONE: Good and loving God,

MANY: we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessings for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

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

**MANY: 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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. AMEN**

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess - ing, tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace.
 May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
 let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
 Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
 May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

BENEDICTION

ONE: Let us pray together the Prayer of Good Courage.

MANY: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

DISMISSAL

ONE: Go in Peace, serve the Lord.

MANY: Thanks be to God!

Acknowledgements:

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ELW 304 *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*

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LS 31 *Open our eyes, Lord*

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ELW 545 *Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing*

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