

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 69 WARDA, TX 78960

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Baptism of our Lord/1st Sunday after Epiphany

GUESTS AND VISITORS: Welcome to Holy Cross and to today's worship service. We are glad you are here! If you have any questions about today's service, or are interested in joining Holy Cross, please speak with Pastor or one of our Elders.

In Holy Baptism, the Triune God Reveals Himself and Recreates Us in His Image

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). Then, as *"the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters"* (Gen. 1:2), God spoke His Word: *"Let there be light, and there was light"* (Gen. 1:3). In the same way, *"the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ"* (Mark 1:1) brings about the new creation through the waters of Baptism by the same Word and Spirit of God. When John the Baptist came, *"proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,"* Jesus also came *"and was baptized by John in the Jordan"* (Mark 1:4, 9). Although He had no sins of His own, He took His stand with sinners in His Baptism and took the sins and mortality of the world upon Himself. He was baptized into His own death, by which the heavens are opened and the Spirit is given to us. God the Father is well pleased with His beloved Son and raises Him from the dead. As we share His Baptism and are *"united with him in a death like his"* (Rom. 6:5), we also share His resurrection unto *"newness of life"* (Rom. 6:4).

Prelude - Selected

The Ringing of the Church Bell

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn: *"When All the World was Cursed"*

Hymn 272

1. When all the world was cursed By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came With words of consolation.
With true fore runner's zeal The Greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown, As Savior he proclaimed.

2. Before he yet was born, He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream, A new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him Of whom the prophets told.

3. Behold the Lamb of God That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes The Enemy's oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God, Who beareth all our sin,
Who for our peace and joy Will full atonement win.
4. Thrice blessed every one Who heeds the proclamation
Which John the Baptist brought, Accepting Christ's salvation.
He who believes this truth And comes with love unfeigned
Has righteousness and peace In fullest measure gained.
5. Oh, grant, Thou Lord of Love, That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John, Our true repentance voicing;
That gladly we may walk Upon our Savior's way
Until we live with Him, In His eternal day. Amen.

[please stand]

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

C: ♪ Amen.

The Confession of Sins & Absolution

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end, that by Thy grace, we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name, He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C:  Amen.

The Introit: Psalm 2:7-11, 12c; antiphon: Isaiah 42:1a

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,

my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,

and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron

and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Now therefore, O kings, be wise;

be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear,

and rejoice with trembling,

for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,

my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

The Gloria Patri

Pg. 6ff.

 **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

The Kyrie

 **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

The Gloria in Excelsis

 **Glory be to God on high: And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King. God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-**

on us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Salutation & The Collect for the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with thy spirit.

P: Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1:1-5 (ESV)

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The Gradual: Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8

P: Praise the LORD, all nations!

C: Extol him, all peoples!

P: For great is his steadfast love toward us,

C: and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

P: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

C: bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Epistle Reading: Romans 6:1-11 (ESV)

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

[please stand]

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Verse: Mark 1:11b

P: Alleluia. You are my beloved Son;

C: with you I am well pleased. Alleluia

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:4-11 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have 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. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord..

C: ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Apostle's Creed

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I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of

the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurre89ction of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Hymn: "To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord" LSB Hymn 407

1 To Jor - dan came the Christ, our Lord, To do His Fa - ther's
 2 O hear and mark the mes - sage well, For God Him - self has
 3 These truths on Jor - dan's banks were shown By might - y word and
 4 There stood the Son of God in love, His grace to us ex -

plea - sure; Bap - tized by John, the Fa - ther's Word
 spo - ken. Let faith, not doubt, a - mong us dwell
 won - der. The Fa - ther's voice from heav'n came down,
 tend - ing; The Ho - ly Spir - it like a dove

Was giv - en us to trea - sure. This heav'n - ly wash - ing
 And so re - ceive this to - ken. Our Lord here with His
 Which we do well to pon - der: "This man is My be -
 Up - on the scene de - scend - ing; The tri - une God as -

now shall be A cleans - ing from trans - gres - sion
 Word en - dows Pure wa - ter, free - ly flow - ing.
 lov - ed Son, In whom My heart has plea - sure.
 sur - ing us, With prom - is - es com - pel - ling,

And by His blood and ag - o - ny Re - lease from death's op -
 God's Ho - ly Spir - it here a - vows Our kin - ship while be -
 Him you must hear, and Him a - lone, And trust in full - est
 That in our Bap - tism He will thus A - mong us find a

pres - sion. A new life now a - waits us.
 stow - ing The Bap - tism of His bless - ing.
 mea - sure The word that He has spo - ken."
 dwell - ing To com - fort and sus - tain us.

5. To His disciples spoke the Lord,
“Go out to ev’ry nation,
And bring to them the living Word
And this My invitation:
Let ev’ryone abandon sin
And come in true contrition
To be baptized and thereby win
Full pardon and remission
And heav’nly bliss inherit.”

6. But woe to those who cast aside
This grace so freely given;
They shall in sin and shame abide
And to despair be driven.
For born in sin, their works must fail,
Their striving saves them never;
Their pious acts do not avail,
And they are lost forever,
Eternal death their portion.

7. All that the mortal eye beholds
Is water as we pour it.
Before the eye of faith unfolds
The pow’r of Jesus’ merit.
For here it sees the crimson flood
To all our ills bring healing;
The wonders of His precious blood
The love of God revealing,
Assuring His own pardon.

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The Sermon

“Baptized Into Christ’s”

[we stand]

The Offertory

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Receipt of Offerings

Installation of 2021 Church Officers and Board Members

Hymn:

“The Star Proclaims the King is Here”

Hymn 131

1. The star proclaims the King is here;
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
He takes no realms of earth away
Who gives the realms of heav'nly day.
2. The wiser Magi see from far
And follow on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they press
And by their gifts their God confess.
3. Within the Jordan's crystal flood
In meekness stands the Lamb of God
And, sinless, sanctifies the wave,
Mankind from sin to cleanse and save.
4. At Cana first His power is shown;
His might the blushing waters own
And, changing as He speaks the word,
Flow wine, obedient to their Lord.
5. All glory, Jesus, be to Thee
For this Thy glad epiphany;
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost forevermore. Amen.

The Prayers of the Day

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, You have revealed Your Son to us in the wondrous Epiphany in the Jordan. So also You have revealed Your name and blessing to us in Holy Baptism, declaring us Your beloved heirs. Grant that we may daily die to sin and rise to newness of life, living with joy as Your baptized children. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Preserve Your Holy Church here and scattered throughout the world. Give steadfast faith to all Christians by the preaching of Your Word and through the Holy Sacraments, and send laborers into Your harvest. Enliven the love of Your saints to bear one another's burdens and to show mercy toward those outside of the Church. Quicken us in the hope of eternal life in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Preserve the family, especially all Christian homes. Turn husband and wife toward one another in love, equip fathers and mothers for their holy duty as teachers of the faith, and preserve all children in the saving faith and certain promises of their Baptism unto life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Preserve our nation, its leaders and those who serve for the good of our people and for their protection. Grant peace in our time, O Lord, for You alone fight for us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give comfort and relief to those who are sick, depressed, tired, confused or in any need especially Dolores, J.C., Shirley, Ruby, Rose, Kaden, Pastor Dennis and Georgie, all those fighting COVID, those in our hearts and on our continued prayer list. Watch over all expectant mothers and their children, that they may have a safe delivery and be brought also to the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism and Your name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, You manifested Yourself, with the Holy Spirit, in the fullness of grace at the baptism of Your dear Son and, with Your voice, directed us to Him who has borne our sins, that we might receive grace and the remission of sins. Keep us, we beseech You, in the true faith. Since we have been baptized in accordance with Your command and the example of Your dear Son, we pray You to strengthen our faith by Your Holy Spirit and lead us to everlasting life and salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

The Collect for the Word/Church

P: Blessed Lord, who has caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C: 🎵 Amen.

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless Thee and keep Thee. The Lord make His face shine upon Thee and be gracious unto Thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon Thee and † give Thee peace.

C: 🎵 Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Closing Hymn: *“Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes” Hymn 66*

1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.

2. He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.
3. He comes, from thickest films of vice To clear the mental ray
And on the eye-balls of the blind To pour celestial day.
4. He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace T'enrich the humble poor.
5. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heaven's eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name. Amen.

Postlude

Outreach Thought

Mark 1:4-11: As we hear of our Lord's Baptism, we are reminded of our own Baptism. Our Baptism tells the story that others need to hear. In Baptism, we are joined to Christ's death and His resurrection. Because Christ lives, we live. Let your Baptism be the story that gives witness to God's amazing grace.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Class will be held this morning in the fellowship hall. We'll continue our study of the Old Testament book of Malachi.

Our next Wednesday communion services for those who do not yet feel comfortable coming to church on Sundays due to COVID will continue in the new year. Our next service will be this Wednesday, January 13th, at 9am. This service is especially for our older members or anyone whose health might prevent them from coming on a Sunday. Please help spread the word with your family and friends. Pastor Beck is still willing to set up private communion services any time you'd like or even bring communion to your home if you're anxious about getting out. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

The Bible study group is doing a six week reading and discussion of the book You'll Get Through This by Max Lucado. All are welcome to join us! We meet starting at 6:30pm in the library. If you have any questions, please contact Cyndy Zoch at 979-966-3166 or cyndy.zoch@gmail.com

An Ushers meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, January 14th, at 7:00 in the sanctuary. ALL ushers are asked to be here.

An Outreach group meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

As a reminder, the weekend rental rate at the picnic hall is now \$175 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The weekday rate will remain the same at \$100. This increase was approved by the voters assembly in the April 29, 2019 meeting and set to take effect on January 1, 2021. Please contact a Trustee or the church office if you have any questions.

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

New Student Registration

Any new student who registers for FLHS prior to March 12, 2021 will have registration fees waived for the 2021-2022 school year. Register early to take advantage of this savings! You can receive registration materials by calling (979) 242-2889 or visiting our website at www.faithlutheranhighschool.com.

Shadow Days

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. Parents, call us today at (979) 242-2889 to set up a shadow day for your child.

Raffle Items

The Spring Raffle is just around the corner. The Board of Directors is currently looking for valuable items or monetary donations to be used in the raffle. Please contact Nikki Kueck if you have something to donate! Thank you!

Free Wednesday mornings?

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday. Chapel this week will be led by Camp Lone Star, beginning at 10:30 am.

End of Year Giving

Thank you for your support of Faith Lutheran High School during our End of Year giving. We were blessed through generous contributions from many of you. We are still accepting donations if you missed out but would like to support the ministry and growth of FLHS. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

Thank you!

Everyone at FLHS is blessed by each gift that we receive from our supporters. It's not about the size of the gift, but the cheerful attitude that gives thanks to God (2 Corinthians 9:7). Whether your gift seems big or small, it is greatly appreciated and makes a bigger impact than you know! Thank you!

Share the Gift of Love

Faith Lutheran High School has a unique role in combining knowledge and God's love in a student's high school experience. We are partnering with families at the intersection of education and faith development. If you would like to support our ministry through a one-time or enduring gift, Thrivent Action Grant or volunteer your time and talents, please contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck.



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR TODAY

Dolores Wolf, recovering from a fall

JC Kaiser, in St. David's hospital following a fall

Shirley Varner, recovering from hand surgery

Ruby Bohot, in Towers Nursing Home in Smithville (corrected from Monument Hill)

Rose Marie Kilian, mother of Lorie Lehmann, on hospice care

Kaden Hernandez, friend of Scarlett Landry, recovering from injuries received in a car accident

Pastor Dennis and Georgette Bragdon, both fighting COVID

All those fighting COVID in our community

All those on our continued prayer list

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

January 10, 2021

Rev. Dustin Beck	Pastor
Mr. John Gay	Lector
Mrs. Carol Schramm	Organist
Mr. Mike Tabbert	Audio/Video System
Doug Lehmann, David Weishuhn, Allen Wolf	Elders on Duty
Abbi Noack	Acolyte

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TODAY	8:30 a.m.	PreService Singing
	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class (NO Sunday School)
MONDAY	7:00 p.m.	Elders
TUESDAY	5:30 p.m.	Pastor Beck/Organists
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
WEDNESDAY	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/communion
	10:30 a.m.	FLHS Chapel
	5:30 p.m.	Jr. Confirmation
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m.	Sewing Circle
	7:00 p.m.	Ushers Meeting for all ushers
Next Sunday	<i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i>	
	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class (NO Sunday School)