



**“God’s Greater Story:
Baptized into God’s Greater Story”**
Sunday, September 13 2020 9:00AM
Worship Service

AS WE GATHER

Today we begin our new series, “God’s Greater Story”, based upon a portion of Paul’s letter to the Church at Rome. How appropriate that we start with Baptism, for it is in dying with Christ through Baptism that we are born anew to eternal life. Through Baptism, we are connected to Christ and given a whole new way of living for time and for eternity. “But I am baptized!” Martin Luther would exclaim when life situations seemed overwhelming. Knowing that we live daily in baptismal grace makes the difference in our lives as well.

Sit

OPENING HYMN

“Father Welcomes”

LSB 605

ref Father welcomes all His children
To His fam’ly through His Son.
Father giving His salvation,
Life forever has been won.

1 Little children, come to Me,
For My kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give,
Mercy for your sin. Refrain

2 In the water, in the Word,
In His promise, be assured:
Those who are baptized and believe
Shall be born again. Refrain

3 Let us daily die to sin;
Let us daily rise with Him,
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,
Live in the peace of God. Refrain

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Stand

OPENING VERSICLES

- P** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** People redeemed by the Lord, let us now make confession of our sins to God our heavenly Father.
- C** **Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of having sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not lived our lives fully in the baptismal grace with which we have been blessed. We have not completely shared the bounty You have given us as stewards of Your creation. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and**

forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, forgive what is sinful in our lives, and grant that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.

P God has promised pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

C Amen.

READING

Matthew 3:13–17

P A reading from Matthew, the third chapter.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CATHECHISM

P As we begin our series on God’s Greater Story, we focus on Baptism, the beginning of our lives as one of God’s children in His Story. Today we confess the words of the Apostles’ Creed regarding the work of the Holy Spirit and also speak the words from Luther’s Small Catechism regarding the work of the Spirit through Baptism.

C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

P As the Holy Spirit works through the Means of Grace, we ask, “How can the water used in Holy Baptism do such great things?”

C Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God’s word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.

Sit

HYMN of the DAY

“All Christians Who Have Been Baptized”

LSB 596

1 All Christians who have been baptized,
Who know the God of heaven,
And in whose daily life is prized
The name of Christ once given:
Consider now what God has done,
The gifts He gives to ev’ryone
Baptized into Christ Jesus!

- 2 You were before your day of birth,
Indeed, from your conception,
Condemned and lost with all the earth,
None good, without exception.
For like your parents' flesh and blood,
Turned inward from the highest good,
You constantly denied Him.
- 3 But all of that was washed away—
Immersed and drowned forever.
The water of your Baptism day
Restored again whatever
Old Adam and his sin destroyed
And all our sinful selves employed
According to our nature.
- 4 In Baptism we now put on Christ—
Our shame is fully covered
With all that He once sacrificed
And freely for us suffered.
For here the flood of His own blood
Now makes us holy, right, and good
Before our heav'nly Father.
- 5 O Christian, firmly hold this gift
And give God thanks forever!
It gives the power to uplift
In all that you endeavor.
When nothing else revives your soul,
Your Baptism stands and makes you whole
And then in death completes you.
- 6 So use it well! You are made new—
In Christ a new creation!
As faithful Christians, live and do
Within your own vocation,
Until that day when you possess
His glorious robe of righteousness
Bestowed on you forever!

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COLLECT FOR THE WORD

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SERMON

“God’s Greater Story: Baptized into God’s Greater Story”

Romans 6: [1-11]12-23

Stand

PRAYER

- P** With trusting hearts we bring our prayers and petitions to our gracious God, confident of His willingness to hear us in this time of holy conversation.
- C** **In holy conversation We speak to God in prayer:**
- P** O Lord, we pray for the Church, asking that through her the joyous news of salvation be proclaimed as the Holy Spirit directs. Grant us an appreciation of the worldwide nature of the fellowship that we share in Christ, that we see in each sister and brother in Christ a reflection of Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord of all, watch over our nation and grant Your divine favor to all who bear office in our land, especially the president and congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of this state/commonwealth, and to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. Help them to serve all those in their care according to Your holy will that we live in peace and safety. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Remove from us all hatred and prejudice, give us the spirit of love, and order our days in Your peace. Prosper the labor of those who work to bring peace and justice to the nations of the world, that mutual understanding and common endeavor may be increased among all peoples. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** As we bring our prayers, O King of heaven, we remember those with special needs who desire our petitions. By Your Word and Holy Spirit, comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [*especially* . . .]. Bring consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Sovereign Lord, we remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven. Bless the communion we share on earth as we await the Supper of the Lamb in His kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, holy Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.
- C** **Amen, that is, so shall it be. Make strong our faith in You, that we may not doubt, but with trust, believe that what we ask we shall receive. Thus in Your name and at Your Word we say, "Amen, O hear us, Lord!"**

LORD'S PRAYER

- C** **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.

BLESSING

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C Amen.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

“On What Has Now Been Sown”

LSB 921

- 1 On what has now been sown
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow’r is Thine alone
To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
And Thou alone shalt have the praise!
- 2 To Thee our wants are known,
From Thee are all our pow’rs;
Accept what is Thine own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
And to Thy Word a blessing give.
- 3 O grant that each of us,
Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus
When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav’n, our home.
E’en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

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