

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, January 10, 2021
BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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Order of Worship, including Scripture

Seasonal Theme:

Jesus grows up, and it begins to dawn on some who and what he is.

Theme for the day:

Jesus's baptism and the beginning of his public ministry.

Call to worship:

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer).*

Pastor: Give unto the Lord, O you mighty ones, give unto the Lord glory
and strength.

People: **Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name, Worship the Lord in
the beauty of holiness.**

Pastor: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the lord is over many waters.

People: **The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full
of majesty.**

Pastor: The Lord sat enthroned at the Flood, and the Lord sits as King forever.

Unison: **The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people
with peace.**

Installation of 2021 Church Officers

Dear Friends,

You have been Called by God and Chosen by the people of God for
LEADERSHIP in the church. This ministry is a blessing and serious
responsibility. It recognizes your special gifts and calls you to work in
partnership with us. In love, we thank you for accepting your obligation,
and challenge you to offer your best to the Lord, to our congregation, and

to our ministry in the world. Live a life in Christ, and make Him known through your witness and your work.

Today we install: *(see list, beginning on page 2)*

Do you this day acknowledge yourself a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ?

I do.

Will you devote yourself to the service of God in the world?

I will.

Will you so live that you enable this church to be a people of love and peace?

I will.

Will you do all in your power to be responsible to the tasks for which you have been chosen?

I will.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, pour out your blessings upon your servants who have been given particular ministries in your church. Grant them grace to give themselves wholeheartedly to your service. Keep before them the example of our Lord, who did not think first of Himself, but gave Himself for us all. Let them share His ministry and consecration, that they may enter into His joy. Guide them in their work. Reward their faithfulness with the knowledge that, through them, your purposes are accomplished; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Pastor: Dear friends, rejoice that God provides laborers for the vineyards. Will you do all you can to assist and encourage them in the responsibilities to which they have been called, giving them your cooperation, your counsel, and your prayers?

Congregation: We will.

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Glorious God, when Jesus was baptized the heavens opened, the Spirit descended, and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus for the healing of mankind and all creation. May your Spirit -- moving like a river flowing from its source -- also burn in us, that we hear your word translated into deed and follow Jesus in paths of justice, right relationships, and peace. In His name we pray. Amen.

Readings from Scripture: **Mark 1:4-11** **Acts 19:1-7**
(Scripture readings begin below)

Message: **HONORING OUR BAPTISM!**

Pastoral Prayer

With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world. Thank you for continuing to send your offerings and pledges by mail.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:
(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

Lord Almighty, you acknowledged Jesus as your beloved son, and through Him you opened to us a way to become your children by grace. May these gifts we return to you be a sign of our dedication to live as your faithful daughters and sons, born in the waters of baptism by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of Lord Jesus compassionately. He will inhabit, uphold, and sustain you always.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS for January 10, 2021

first reading – MARK 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed

with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

second reading – ACTS 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.