

JESUS OF NAZARETH

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS (REMEMBERING YOUR BAPTISM)

MATTHEW 3:1-17

3-29-20

All = bold sections – read together

Leader = regular font – leader reads (choose or rotate leaders)

Sung together = italics

You'll need a pen/pencil or digital pen/pencil

Welcome

Good Morning!

Reflect on your past week, past day, past hour.... What's your state of being like at the moment? Tired? Anxious? Curious? Eager? Thankful? Perplexed? Angry? Irritated? Bored? Joyful? Distracted? Other? Circle one or more or add your own here _____

Wherever you are in this moment, know that God is Immanuel – God with us and that in Christ, he will never leave or forsake us (Matthew 28:20). Remember that God is always with you, in all circumstances and in all states of being. So, in whatever state you are currently in.....

May the love and joy of the Father, the grace and peace of the Son and the comfort and courage of the Holy Spirit be ours in abundance!

Call to Worship: Revelation 5:9-14 – We gather apart today in order to worship the One true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our call to worship is from the last book of the Bible, Revelation. Like its name, this passage reveals the worthiness of Jesus, the “lamb who was slain” to be worshipped. Imagine right now the resurrected Jesus at the right hand of the Father (he may or may not be there at the moment), receiving our praise and the praise of those around him. Imagine people from “every tribe and language praising him together:

They sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Song: O Praise The Name (Anastasis) -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqBpifDpNKc>



*I cast my mind to Calvary where Jesus bled and died for me.
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet. My Savior on that cursed tree.
His body bound and drenched in tears. They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb.
The entrance sealed by heavy stone. Messiah still and all alone.*

*O praise the name of the Lord our God! O praise His name forever more!
For endless days we will sing Your praise. Oh Lord, oh Lord our God!*

*Then on the third at break of dawn, the Son of heaven rose again.
O trampled death where is your sting? The angels roar for Christ the King.*

*O praise the name of the Lord our God! O praise His name forever more!
For endless days we will sing Your praise. Oh Lord, oh Lord our God!*

*He shall return in robes of white, the blazing Son shall pierce the night.
And I will rise among the saints, my gaze transfixed on Jesus' face.*

*O praise the name of the Lord our God! O praise His name forever more!
For endless days we will sing Your praise. Oh Lord, oh Lord our God!*

Take a couple of minutes in silence: This song speaks about Jesus Christ's crucifixion (death), resurrection (new life) and coming again. Which aspect of the gospel grabs your attention at the moment? Circle and highlight the words of that verse. Why might that be?

Psalm of Praise: Psalm 108:1-6

My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn! I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.

For your steadfast love is great above the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! That your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by your right hand and answer me!

Centering Prayer/Prayer of the People (adapted from a Christianity Today article)

Start a time of prayer by reading this together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever....

Pray through the following by taking turns reading out loud "We pray...."

...for the sick and infected: God, heal and help. Sustain bodies and spirits. Contain the spread of infection.

... for our vulnerable populations: God, protect our elderly and those suffering from chronic disease. Provide for the poor, especially the uninsured.

... for the young and the strong: God, give them the necessary caution to keep them from unwittingly spreading this disease. Inspire them to help.



... for our local, state, and federal governments: God, help our elected officials as they allocate the necessary resources for combatting this pandemic. Help them to provide more tests.

... for our scientific community, leading the charge to understand the disease and communicate its gravity: God, give them knowledge, wisdom, and a persuasive voice.

... for the media, committed to providing up-to-date information: God, help them to communicate with appropriate seriousness without causing panic.

... for consumers of media, looking to be well-informed: God, help us find the most helpful local information to equip us to be good neighbors. Keep us from anxiety and panic, and enable us to implement the recommended strategies, even at a cost to ourselves.

... for those with mental health challenges who feel isolated, anxious, and helpless: God, provide them every necessary support.

... for the homeless, unable to practice the protocols of social distancing in the shelter system: Protect them from disease, and provide the necessary help they need in every city.

... for international travelers stuck in foreign countries: God, help them return home safely and quickly.

... for Christian missionaries throughout the world, especially in areas with high rates of infection: God, provide them with words of hope, and equip them to love and serve those around them.

... for workers in a variety of industries facing layoffs and financial hardship: God, keep them from panic, and inspire your church to generously support them.

... for families with young children at home for the foreseeable future: God, help mothers and fathers to partner together creatively for the care and flourishing of their children. For single mothers and fathers, grow their networks of support.

... for parents who cannot stay home from work but must find care for their children: God, present them with creative solutions.

... for those in need of regular therapies and treatments that must now be postponed: God, help them to stay patient and positive.

... for business leaders making difficult decisions that affect the lives of their employees: God, give these women and men wisdom, and help them to lead self-sacrificially.

... for pastors and church leaders faced with the challenges of social distancing: God, help them to creatively imagine how to pastor their congregants and love their cities well.

... for college and university students, whose courses of study are changing, whose placements are cancelled, whose graduation is uncertain: God, show them that while life is uncertain, their trust is in you.

... for Christians in every neighborhood, community, and city: May your Holy Spirit inspire us to pray, to give, to love, to serve, and to proclaim the gospel, that the name of Jesus Christ might be glorified around the world.



... for frontline health care workers, we thank you for their vocational call to serve us. We also pray: God, keep them safe and healthy. Keep their families safe and healthy.

- God, help them to be knowledgeable about the diagnosis and treatment of this disease, as well as the changing protocols.
- God, help them to stay clear-minded in the midst of the surrounding panic.
- God, deliver them from anxiety for their loved ones (aging parents, kids, spouses, roommates).
- God, give them compassion for every patient in their care.
- God, help Christians in health care to exhibit extraordinary peace, so that that many would ask about the reason for their hope. Give them opportunities to proclaim the gospel.

Conclude by praying this together:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God. Have mercy on me, a sinner.

Song: Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zundiUFazfg>

*What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer. There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom, my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.*

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, for my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh how strange and divine I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!*

*The night is dark but I am not forsaken, for by my side, the Savior He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need, His power is displayed.*

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, for my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh how strange and divine I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!*

*No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven. The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon and He was raised to overthrow the grave.*

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, for my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh how strange and divine I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!*

*With every breath I long to follow Jesus, for He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me until I stand with joy before the throne.*

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus. All the glory evermore to Him!
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!*

*When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!*



Offering

We remember that giving is an act of faith, a practice of hope and an expression of love.

2 Corinthians 9:6–8 Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

Why does God delight in a generous and cheerful giver? Why does he add the verse about grace and good works right after talking about giving?

You can give by sending your offering to the church (P.O. Box 217, Oakdale Ca 95361 – note change from last week) or consider giving online through your bank. Our deacons can help you with this if necessary.

Youth Celebration

We remember and celebrate the presence and participation of our youth. Pray a prayer of thanks for our youth and for their growth and development as disciples of Jesus.

Scripture Reading: Please open your Bible and read Matthew 3:1-17 (we will focus on Jesus' baptism)

Gospel Message: Remembering Your Baptism

I. Preparing the Way for Jesus and His Baptism (vv. 1-12) – Jesus, not John is the main character...

Compare and contrast John's and Jesus' baptism.

II. Jesus' Baptism (vv.13-17) Question: Why was Jesus baptized? Answer: "To fulfill all righteousness"
This means at least four things:

1. Jesus was baptized not for the forgiveness of his sins (he had none), but so that he might forgive us of our sins by fulfilling all righteousness (note: water symbolizes washing, cleansing).
2. Jesus was baptized not to unite himself with God (for he is God) but so that we might be united to God in Christ through the Holy Spirit (note the trinitarian presence – Jesus, Holy Spirit as dove, Father's voice)
3. Jesus was baptized not for a new identity (for he needed none) but so that we might have a new identity as children of the King, new creations in Christ (note: the Father identifies Jesus as his Son).
4. Jesus was baptized not to be a part of the church (his body is the Church) but so that we might be united with one another as the church, the body of Christ (by being baptized Jesus modeled what all disciples of his and their children are to do).

III. Remembering Our Baptism (Application)

Jesus' baptism reminds us of the importance of our own. When we remember our baptism, we are remembering four things:

1. Forgiveness: Jesus forgives our sins as an act of gracious love.
2. Vital Union: The Holy Spirit unites us with Christ - his life, death and resurrection as an act of gracious love. (Colossians 2:12)
3. Identity: We become children of God in Christ as an act of God's gracious love.
4. Belonging: We become the body of Christ together in Christ as an act of God's gracious love.

Because of Jesus, you are loved! Remember your baptism!



Prayer of Response

Spend some time in silent prayer in response to God’s Word for you this morning. Which of the four meanings of baptism are you drawn to this morning (maybe more than one)? Circle it and include this in your prayer. Include a time of confession and need for Jesus.

Communion Meditation

Professing: (Nicene Creed)

Read out loud:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Proclaiming (1 Corinthians 11:23b-25) – Paraphrased

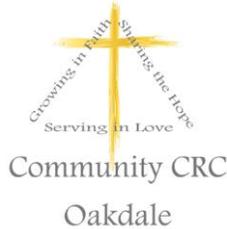
On the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread and he broke it saying, “this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Likewise, after the meal he took the cup of wine and pouring it out said, “this wine is my blood, a new covenant of grace poured out for the forgiveness of sins.”

Participating

1. *Extending -- the Table:* Next time you eat, take notice of the food and drink and remember and believe that Jesus' body and blood was given and shed for the remission of all our sins! Remember that Jesus Christ was crucified, died and was buried for the forgiveness of my sins. He bore the eternal wrath of God that was meant for me. He died the death that was supposed to be my end. Remember that Jesus Christ was raised to new life, resurrection life and defeated death just as he defeated sin on the cross. Tomb and cross empty. Life and love full. And all this ours as gift, by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

2. *Remembering – Your Baptism:* Remembering your baptism is remembering you were buried (death of old, sinful way of living) and raised with Christ (new life as new creations in Christ) Colossians 2:12. Remember?

-What part of the gospel of Jesus Christ stands out for you this morning? _____



Singing: Just As I Am -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kd5lvqgW0sw>

*Just as I am, without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me.
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee. O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot.
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot. O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
I come broken to be mended. I come wounded to be healed.
I come desperate to be rescued. I come empty to be filled.
I come guilty to be pardoned by the blood of Christ the Lamb.
And I'm welcomed with open arms. Praise God, just as I am.
Just as I am, I would be lost but mercy and grace my freedom bought.
And now to glory in Your cross. Oh Lamb of God I come, I come.
I come broken to be mended. I come wounded to be healed.
I come desperate to be rescued. I come empty to be filled.
I come guilty to be pardoned by the blood of Christ the Lamb.
And I'm welcomed with open arms. Praise God, just as I am.*

Song: Doxology/Amen -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J228TzIS9Co>

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him all he heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Amen! Amen! Amen!
God we praise You! God we praise You!
Praise God for all that he has done. Praise him for he has overcome.
The grave is beaten love has won. Praise God our Savior, Christ the son.
Amen! Amen! Amen!
God we praise You! God we praise You!
Amen! Amen! Amen!
We praise You! We praise You!
Amen! Amen! Amen!*

Sending Out as Disciples of Jesus: Matthew 28:18–20 (paraphrased)

In closing, let us remember our baptism and the value of gathering together as the body of Christ.

While we have not gathered together corporately as the body of Christ, we continue to live as disciples of his in our various spheres of influence – family, work, neighborhood, city, school...

Read together our sending, thinking of the next 100 people to be baptized and join us in demonstrating Christ's love, growing faithfully in discipleship and sharing the hope we have in Jesus.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. Therefore, as we are sent into the world by him, let us make disciples of all, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded us. And let us remember and treasure that Jesus is with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen!