

Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church
202 Van Buren Street
Evans City, Pennsylvania 16033-1127
(724) 538-5810



Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

Pastor Brandon Johns
January 10, 2021
10:15 am Worship Service

Breath of God

Breath figures frequently in Scripture. God's breath or Spirit hovers over the chaos in creation in Genesis. Breath or Spirit enters the nostrils of the created in the story. Breath and Spirit is breathed onto the disciples by Jesus when he appears to them after his resurrection. In the gospel text, as Jesus rises from the waters, the Spirit, the breath of God, descends like a dove. Jesus, having held his breath under the water, rises as a model of death and life for us, breathing in the life of the Spirit. He is a risen and claimed by God as the beloved with whom God is pleased.

Of course, breathing is two things, breathing in and breathing out. You can hold your breath, but there is no way to hold it forever. Consider how this reflects the Spirit's power in Jesus and then in our baptism. In baptism, the gift is not just one of repentance and forgiveness, but, as the Acts text emphasizes, also involves the Spirit living and acting in the baptized. While it is a gift for our own lives, like the gift of breathing in, it is also encouragement and life, a breathing out of the Spirit into the world. Baptism is both for our own sake and for the world. In our baptism, we breathe in forgiveness and reconciliation and breathe out the Spirit in our life and works. That's the full life of the baptized disciple.

From Sundays and Seasons "Day Resources"

BELL RINGING

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.



GATHERING HYMN: Baptized and Set Free



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then 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.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 29 (Read in Unison)

- ¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- ⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- ⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips
the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for evermore.
- ¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He 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.” ³Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴Paul 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.” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(The assembly stands, if able, to welcome the gospel.)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

The holy gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

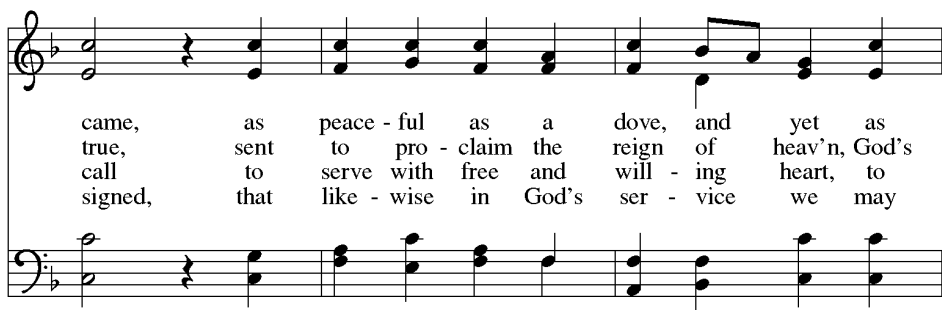
⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."
 This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

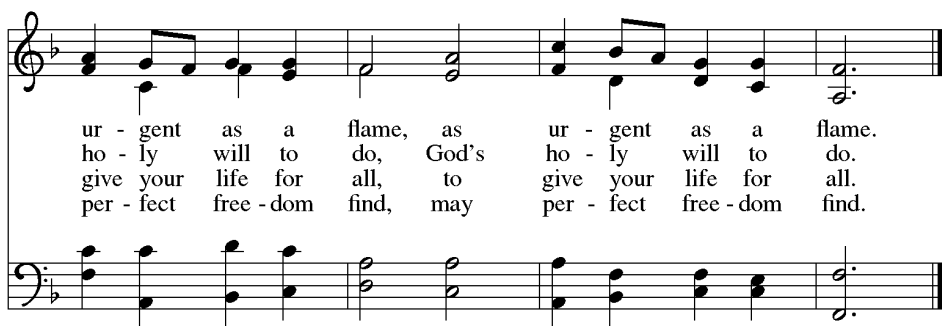
HYMN OF THE DAY: Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized



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.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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 OF INTERCESSION

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, let us pray.

The response for each petition is: Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

OFFERING SONG



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Holy God,
Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness,
we hear your Word in the scriptures,
proclaiming to us your wisdom
and inviting us to follow your call.
For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother,
who preached your righteousness, healed the sick,
and revived the brokenhearted.

For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God.

We worship you, O God.

By your Spirit, bless all who receive this Word,
that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of your Son.
For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God.
We praise you, O God.

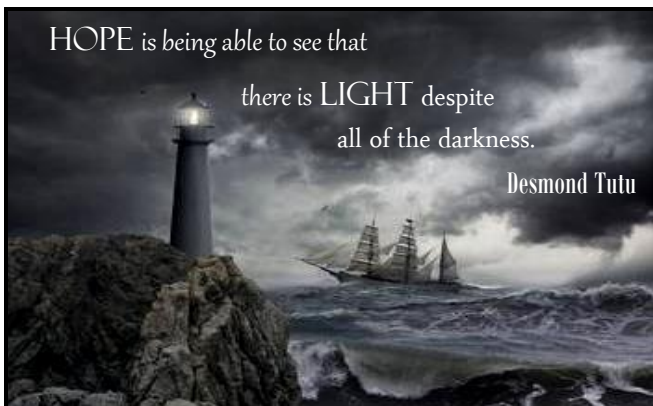
Blessed are you, holy God,
around us, with us, and in us,
now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Taught by God's Word Incarnate, we are bold to pray:
**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**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**



*HOPE is being able to see that
there is LIGHT despite
all of the darkness.*
Desmond Tutu

HYMN: Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

SHARING FOR SERVING:

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND MISSION NOTICES

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

A Psalm of Praise

Chester Nordman

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for January

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support Meals On Wheels. If you would like to support this cause, please mark the other line on your contribution envelope Meals On Wheels.

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently For The Following:

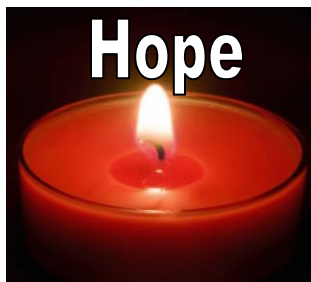
Mary Kay Hill
Heinie Raupp
Doris Smelcser
Mark Zoelle
Don Zinkhan

Donna Daugherty
Rege & Becky Rengers
Thelma Schoeffel
Vera Wahl
Mary Lee Jones

Please hold these members and friends of St. Peter's in your prayers.

"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." James 5:16

*Today's Altar Flowers
are given by
Ted and McKenzie Lindgren
in memory of
Carolyn Twyman &
Ted Lindgren I*



*The Eternal Candle
Is Presented By
Pastor & Christine Johns
in loving memory of
our grandparents*

At Home Holy Communion Service- will take place on Sunday, January 10th at 7 pm. A zoom link has been provided for that service as well as bulletins and travel communion elements which are located on the table outside of the glass doors or you can use bread and wine or juice that you have at home and access the bulletin through the email that has been sent with the link. Council members and officers will also be installed during this service.

Altar Flowers and Eternal Candle – Thank you again for the great response to sponsoring flowers after last week’s announcement. There are still some Sundays available if you haven’t signed up yet. The flower and eternal candle chart is online and can be accessed with by using the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040845ABAB28A0F49-sponsors>

You can also contact the church office. The altar flowers are \$35. Mark an envelope, write FLOWERS and the amount. Additionally, March is the last month remaining open for sponsorship for the Eternal Candle. The cost to sponsor the candle is \$15.00 for the month and your donation can be placed in your offering envelope.

Brick Loan Update – Officially, we have \$60,187.81 remaining on the balance of our loan from the Mission Investment Fund for paying for the brick restoration of our church building. However, once we send in an extra payment from the funds that have been gathered together from generous end of year giving by families and fundraisers by ministry groups in our congregation, that balance will drop to about **\$48,000**. This means that in just over three years’ time, we have been able to cross over and blow by the halfway threshold! Because of your generosity, all of our extra payments mean that our lower principal can diminish that much faster too, since less of our monthly payments will need to cover interest expense. Thank you to everyone who gives in any way to support the mission and ministry of St. Peter’s, but as we reach and pass this milestone, thank you especially to everyone who has helped our community reach our financial goals!

Game Night - will be held through Zoom on Sat., Jan. 16th at 6:30 pm. You can pick up your soup and play games together on the same day! For this game night we would like feedback of what people would like to play. Pastor has more trivia packs so that is an option. Also, Encore has been suggested, which is a team game about recalling song lyrics that have particular words or fit categories. Another possibility is to break out into game theme rooms, like Yahtzee, and play different games in different virtual rooms. Please let Pastor know what your preference for our next game night is beforehand.



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

SOUP SALE



Saturday, January 16th

\$8.00 per Quart

Orders due by Tuesday, January 12th

*Please make checks payable to W-ELCA

Name _____ Phone _____

<u>Choice of Soup</u>	<u>Number of Quarts</u>	<u>x \$8.00</u>
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Potato	_____	_____
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Stuffed Pepper	_____	_____
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Chicken Noodle	_____	_____
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Wedding Soup	_____	_____
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Total Amount _____

To place orders return forms to church office
or call Vonda Weimer at 412-400-9763

Proceeds to support a new heating system at St. Peter's and
the Evans City Fire Department

***Soup orders may be picked up by a drive-thru pick up in
our lower parking lot**

(Please use the South Street Entrance)

or delivered to homebound upon request

Saturday, January 16th from 2:30-3:30 pm

Welcome to St. Peter's

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray that your worship experience will fill you with the grace and mercy of Almighty God through his Holy Spirit.

Newcomers and Guests

New to St. Peter's? We are glad you found us. Please check in with Pastor by calling or email to talk about what St. Peter's is like under regular conditions and so you can be connected with the ministries we are holding in old and new ways during these social distance times.

Staying in Touch:

Please feel free to contact us by phone or internet:

Church Office: 724.538.5810

Church Email: stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net

Pastor Email: rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com

Church Website: www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org

Church Facebook Page: St. Peter's Lutheran Church

