

KITCHEN TABLE GATHERING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH
CONNECT + PRAY + BE FED

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.

People of God, in the baptismal waters we travel with Christ from death to life.
Our pasts, our sins, our failures, our doubts -- are drowned and gone here.
You, O God, wash us clean.

Our fear, our confusion, our shame, our despair --
ALL are washed away by grace.
You, O God, give us new life.

Our pride, our hypocrisy, our self-righteousness --
no longer have the power to define us.
You, O God, wash us clean.

The Spirit lives and moves through us now, a great and joyful mystery, so we
may experience and share God's love and mercy in the world as the body of
Christ.
You, O God, give us new life.

God has claimed us in this baptismal grace, not by our own doing or believing
but by God's mercy alone. Through these waters, God gives us new life beyond
what the world says is possible.
You, O God, wash us clean.

In the midst of the chaos of this world, God troubles the waters. Remember
with each tear shed and each drop of rain, with each moment we run our
hands under the faucet or take a drink to quench our thirst, with each
encounter with the wilds of the rivers, lakes and seas, we are joined to Christ
in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
The old is drowned and we are transformed to engage the world anew.

We praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, creator of light and life, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace and hold us together. Transform us by your Spirit and show us how far we can reach with love, 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



READINGS

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the 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. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;

the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;

the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;

the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,

and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord

bursts forth in lightning flashes.

The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The 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!"

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;

the Lord sits enthroned as king

forevermore.

O Lord, give strength to your people;

give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

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."

MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Although we are not together in person at this time, we are still church and our ministry continues. Your contributions help support our our work and I am also here to walk with you during these strange days.

THE MEAL WE SHARE

*Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
And with thanksgiving, I'll be a living,
sanctuary for you.*

Although our community is scattered, God's love and grace abounds! Jesus promises us: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Let this meal we share together overcome the physical distance between us and remind us of our unity.

Listen to the words Jesus shared with his disciples at the table:

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the words closest to your heart.

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.

SHARE THE MEAL

MEAL BLESSING

Christ Jesus,
at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey.
Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your
good news and serve others in your name.
Amen.

BLESSING (“A Non-Traditional Blessing” by Sister Ruth Marlene Fox, OSB)

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial
relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so
that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection,
hunger, and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn
their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a
difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done, to
bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

In the name of the Divine Three in One. **Amen**

SENDING

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.