

Baptism of Our Lord



The Lihu'e Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hawai'i

Ka Hale Pule 'O Na Lahui Apau . . .

Church Of All Peoples . . .

. . . Hele Pu Makou me Iesu Kristo

January 10, 2021

The Lihue Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hawai'i

4602 Ho'omana Road, Lihue, HI 96766

The Rev. JP Paxton

Rhonda Pabo, Organist Liedeke Bulder, Lector

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Prayer Concerns

Please remember these people in your prayers during the week: Pagatpatan ohana, Villanueva ohana, Geronimo ohana, David Gragg, Joe Morgan, Zosimo and Virginia Austria, Karen Kinoshita, Jake Whisenhunt, Rick Rentz, Stan Weeks, Judy Hoffman, Norman Dibble, Marie Johnson, Kazue Zaima, Virginia Hines-Aflague, John Mattek, Gerald II (Bobby Gerald's son), Kristie Schmid (Tony's sister), Lolli Hagen, Abraham Torres, Sr., Kristy Kahananui, Sonny Koerte, Malory Rodriguez, Steve Schantz, Peter Alisna, Tirzah Pope, John McIntyre, Pastor Matthew Weber, Joyce Anglemeyer, Stephen Shioi, Peggy Hood, Jason Shimono, Richard Rasay, Nancy Nelson (formely Mandell), Karen & Patrick Pavao, Edward Rasay, Karen Richards (friend of Nancy Mandell), Marcos Larson (Liedeke's son), Dora Jane Rowell, Franklin Parraga, Penny Parraga, Leticia Ancog (Kurt Javinar's sister), Yvonne Shinseki, Al Dressler (Larry's Father), Shirley Hallman (Denese Alcott's Mother), Mercy Ballesteros, Mike LaBerge, Anna Marie & Phil Croghan, Judy Carlson, Caroline Johnson, Sheila Belarmino, Ray Roderick, The Church Council, and leaders in the ELCA. If you have additional prayer requests, please let the church office know.

"Ask it in my name . . ." Mahalo for your love.

Remembering Our Military

As we gather for worship, please remember those serving us in the military, and the families of our Hawai'i National Guard. These names have been given by loved ones and family members: Navy – TJ, Javinar, Kristian Matsumoto, Coast Guard - Brian Rodriguez, Navy - Kiana Alisna, Coast Guard - Ke'ale Renta Army - Jason Lumacad, Levi Fajardo: Air Force - Steven Javinar, Ikaika Fajardo, Army - Brandon Perkinson, Drew Cox, Tony Garton: National Guard - Benji MacKenzie, Eddie Resinto, Fred Casticimo, Philip Kamakea, Anthony Y. Torres, Master Sgt. If you know of someone you would like added to our prayer list, please advise the church office.

Introduction

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

Welcome to Our Guests

It is always a joy to share our faith and worship with people visiting from around the world. Please know your presence and participation in our service is most appreciated. At Lihue Lutheran we celebrate Holy Communion at every service. You are certainly welcome in joining us as our Lord comes to us in this holy meal.

Introduction

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

Overview

Breathe 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.

Theological reflection

Timing, they say, is everything. Consider the timing of these words to Jesus. "And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased'" (Mark 1:11). This is before Jesus' public ministry begins. Jesus has not recruited a single disciple. There is no mention yet of him preaching, teaching, or healing anyone. You might say he has done nothing to make the one speaking from above well pleased. Yet this is the powerful love of God poured down from above through baptism. The grace extended to Jesus extends to all God's children: one and all are

Announcements and Weekly Events!

Announcements

1. **Saturday, January 23**, All Church Work day @ 9am
2. Growth in Grace Gardening Ministry is growing!
3. God's Grindz (March & April) & Mobile Muchies needs volunteers (Thursday AM)

Weekly Events

- ◇ Youth Group
Sunday, January 10, "New year, new me" @ 5:30-7:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- ◇ Ghetto Sweet Tarts
Monday, January 11, "Epiphany: A new realization" @ 5:30-7:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- ◇ BOBS Table Talk – Ephesians
Tuesday, January 12, Ephesians @ 5:30-7:00pm,
Conference Room, <https://zoom.us/j/91319975631>
- ◇ Women's Book Study – "It's not supposed to be this way" - Lysa Terkeurst
Wednesday, January 13 @ 7:30-8:30pm via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/96513446272>
- ◇ Centering Prayer with Liedeke Bulder
Saturday, January 16, @ 9-10am via zoom <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9079773456>

Baptism of Our Lord

Order for Worship

Welcome, Check-In, and Announcements

Moment of Mindfulness

*Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

C you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin, our own sins and broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

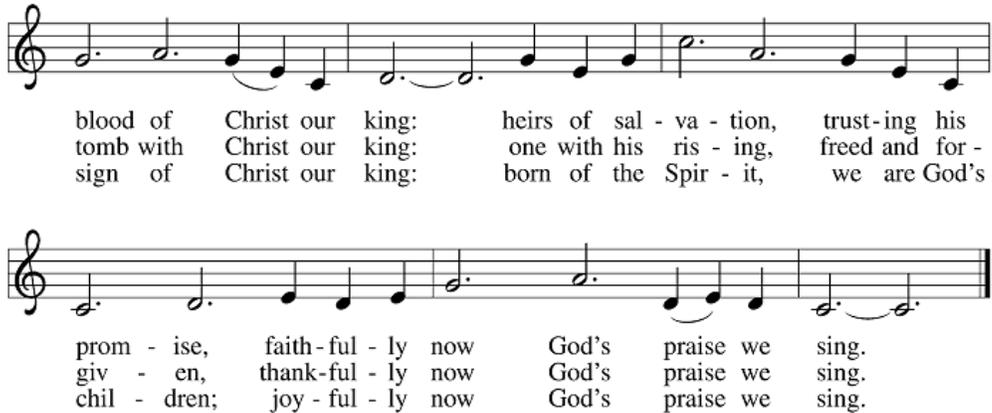
C Amen

*Gathering Song

Baptized in Water



1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his
 tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

**The Apostolic Greeting*

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

C **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day*

P 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.

C **Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

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.

A The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due
God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holi-
ness.**
³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
⁴**The 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;
⁶**the 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.
⁸**The voice of the LORD hakes the wilder-
ness;
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 cry-
ing, "Glory!"
¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the
flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forev-
ermore.**
¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of
peace.

Second Reading

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

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 an-

swered, "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

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Refrain

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris-en Lord;
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.

Holy Gospel*Mark 1:4-11**

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the first chapter.



Glo - ry 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

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

Keiki Sermon**Sermon*****Hymn of the Day Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart**

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling,
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

**Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

*The Prayers of the Church

- P Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.
- A For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, let us pray.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- A For wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth, that God's goodness is revealed through creation and faithful stewards care for all God has made, let us pray.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- A For the nations of the world and their leaders, for laborers busy both day and night, and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their strength wisely, let us pray.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- A For the sick and those who provide medical care, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for all who suffer (*especially*), that God shower compassion, let us pray.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- A For the congregation gathered here, for students returning to school, for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace, let us pray.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- Here other intercessions may be offered.
- A In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations, let us pray.
- C Amen**
- P 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.
- C Amen**

*The Queen's Prayer

Piano

O kou a - lo - ha no A i - a i ka La - ni, A
No - lai - la e ka - Haku Ma - la - lo kou e - he - u, Ko

6



Pno

o kou oi - a i - o, He he - mo - le - le hoi
ma-kou ma - lu hi - a, A mau loa a - ku no. A - me - ne.

English Translation

1. O Lord thy Loving Mercy,
Is high as the Heavens.
It tells us of thy truth.
And 'tis filled with holiness

3. For thy grace I beseech thee.
Bring us 'neath thy protection.
And peace will be thy portion
Now and forever more. Amen

The Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us share the peace of the Lord with those here locally and those joining us online via Facebook live!

Offertory Word

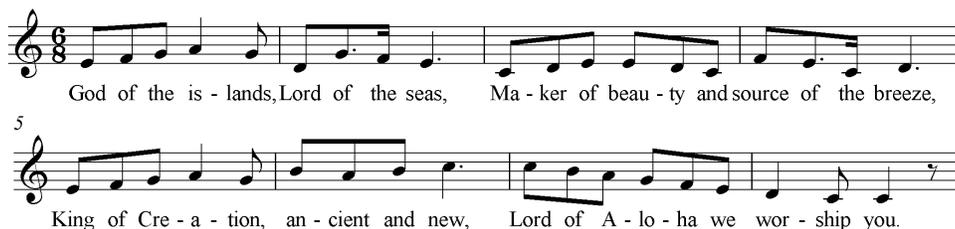
If God puts it on your heart to give, donations can be given here today, mailed in, or given online our website [here](#) or you can copy and paste the weblink below @

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Offertory Response

Lord of Aloha



God of the is - lands, Lord of the seas, Ma - ker of beau - ty and source of the breeze,
King of Cre - a - tion, an - cient and new, Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

9

 Auth-or of mer-cy, Giv-er of grace, Bles-sed Re-deem-er who died in our place, Fath-er of one O

14

 ha-na are you, Lift-ing our voic-es we sing "Al-le-lu" Lord of A-lo-ha we wor-ship you.

19

 God of the is-lands, Lord of the seas, Ma-ker of beau-ty and source of the breeze,

23

 King of Cre-a-tion, an-cient and new, Lord of A-lo-ha we wor-ship you.

27

 Lord of A-lo-ha we wor-ship you.

**Offertory Prayer*

P Let us pray. O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like an other 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.

C Amen

Invitation to Communion

The Word is revealed in a manger, in simply bread and wine. Come meet Christ in this meal.

**The Words of Institution*

(All are welcome to share in this meal with us. The sacraments are provided in accordance to synodical guidelines in collaboration with CDC, state, and local precautions. If you do not have sacraments, please raise your hand and an usher will bring them to you.)

**The Lord's Prayer*

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.

**The Blessing*

P The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

**The Post Communion Prayer*

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

**The Benediction*

P The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace in the name of Makua, Keiki Kane, and Uhane Hemolele

C Amen.

**The Sending Song 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."

Dismissal

P Go in peace, be the light of Christ! **C** Thanks be to God!

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Upcoming Commemorations

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968

Friday, January 15, 2021

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

What water(s) are you baptized into?

The Gospel message is striking in its description of baptism. Here, baptism includes two core Christian virtues: 1) repentance and 2) forgiveness. This might sound like a wild claim but repentance and forgiveness are counter-cultural virtues; they are not values the world understands or practices.

When the world sins, they do not confess, *they defend*. When the world is offended, they seek justice that merely masquerades as socially appropriate and agreed upon modes of retribution. These forms of retribution do not bring about the healing, change, and transformation of baptism; and this mode of baptism certainly does not lead to new life or a changed life. The world *doesn't understand repentance or forgiveness*. And this mode of thinking has made its way into the church and created confusion around what repentance and forgiveness are and what they look like. Instead of the baptism of repentance and forgiveness, the church AND the world has bathed in the waters of contempt, criticism, pride, and moral superiority.

Therefore, this week begs the question, *into which waters are you baptized?* The waters of confession? The waters of forgiveness? The waters of repentance? The waters of surrender and the waters of trust and hope in God? Or are you continually bathing and self-baptizing in the waters, i.e., contemporary ideologies, of the world?

To say it plainly, the church looks and feels and lives and breathes as the world does. And also, I would argue strongly that the church has abdicated moral authority to secular institutions; AND WE GO ALONG WITH IT! The church is not a place people turn to for truth or moral authority, it is one store in the outlet mall of contemporary ideology and people simply shop for answers that are either pleasing or palatable. In doing so, people become a moral authority unto ourselves, a self-driving car without a map or money for gas.

There's a reason why Jesus' disciples leave him, if we are to read beyond the Gospel of John from last week's lectionary. It's because light came into the world but people loved darkness. The truth, when it became fully apparent, wasn't palatable. People want a Savior but they don't want Jesus; they want salvation but they don't want the cross; so, like the rich young ruler they walk away sad.

The Christian life is not easy, but it wasn't designed to be. The way of Jesus is the way of the cross. It's the way of confession, it's the way of forgiveness, and it's the way of repentance; which is all too weak for the world who is in search of a warrior king, not a humble king...one who will come into their lives riding on a lowly donkey.

The world baptizes with mere water, but God baptizes with an eternal, everlasting, and everflowing spring. Here, you will not thirst. You will not hunger. You will not grow weary. Instead, you will be refreshed, you will be renewed, you will be restored, and you will be made new to live a different life that is light and salt in a dark and dreary world. Be baptized into *this water*.