

**St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Baptism of the Lord – January 7, 2024**

Responsive Call to Worship

The time has come!

The time is now!

The reign of God has drawn near.

The kingdom of heaven is here.

Let us turn our lives around and accept the good news.

**Let us hear and follow Christ who calls us to follow. We
worship in his name.**

Hymn 214 All glory, laud and honour

Refrain:

**All glory, laud and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!**

**1. Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and blessed one.**

Refrain:

**All glory, laud and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!**

**2. The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we resent.**

Refrain:

**All glory, laud and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!**

**3. To thee before thy passion
they sang their hymns of praise;**

to thee, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.

Refrain:

All glory, laud and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!

4. You didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King.

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 172 **As with gladness men of old**

1. As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright:
so, most gracious Lord, may we
ever more be led to thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heaven and earth adore,
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

4. Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way,
and when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds of glory hide.

**5. In that heavenly country bright
need they no created light:
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
hallelujahs to our King.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

**God of majesty and mercy, forgive our wrongdoing:
things we have done knowingly; things we have left undone;
hurts we have inflicted unintentionally; and hurts we have
tried to disguise.**

**Forgive our acts of selfishness, harmful things we have done
to please others, and those done to please ourselves. In the
week and year ahead, help us choose a better way.**

- silent confession -

The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. For ever
and ever. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (minister)

Hymn 389 Breathe on me, breath of God

**1. Breathe on me, breath of God;
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**2. Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will
to do and to endure.**

**3. Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,**

**until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

**4. Breathe on me, breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 29 p. 478 NT & Psalms

¹Honor the Lord, you heavenly beings;
honor the Lord for his glory and strength.

²Honor the Lord for the glory of his name.

Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

³The voice of the Lord echoes above the sea.
The God of glory thunders.

The Lord thunders over the mighty sea.

**⁴The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is majestic.**

⁵The voice of the Lord splits the mighty cedars;
the Lord shatters the cedars of Lebanon.

**⁶He makes Lebanon's mountains skip like a calf;
he makes Mount Hermon leap like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the Lord strikes
with bolts of lightning.

**⁸The voice of the Lord makes the barren wilderness quake;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the Lord twists mighty oaks
and strips the forests bare.

In his Temple everyone shouts, "Glory!"

**¹⁰The Lord rules over the floodwaters.
The Lord reigns as king forever.**

**¹¹The Lord gives his people strength.
The Lord blesses them with peace.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Genesis 1:1-5 p. 1 pew Bible

Acts 19:1-7 p. 237 NT & Psalms

Mark 1:4-11 p. 61 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon What's up with this baptism?

Prayers of the People *(minister)*

Hymn 291 Thou whose almighty word

**1. Thou whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray
let there be light!**

**2. Saviour who came to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind
let there be light!**

**3. Spirit of truth and love,
lifegiving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move o'er the waters' face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!**

**4. Blessed and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world, far and wide,
let there be light!**

Offering & Offertory

***Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer of Dedication (congregation)

God our Maker, we offer our gifts to you in thanksgiving for your gifts to us in Christ and in creation. Bless what we bring and who we are, so that our gifts will bless the world you love in Christ's name. Amen.

Hymn 382 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart

**1. Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from sin, through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
and make me love thee as I ought to love.**

**2. I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel messenger, no opening skies,
but take the dimness of my soul away.**

**3. Hast thou not bid me love thee, God and King?
All, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind?
I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling;
oh let me seek thee and oh let me find!**

**4. Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh;
teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
to face the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.**

**5. Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame:
the baptism of the heaven descended Dove;
my heart an altar and thy love the flame.**

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude