

November 22, 2020
8:30am



Welcome to Zumbro Lutheran Church!

Today is our second week focusing on baptism. This theme helps us reflect on the new stained glass cross in our sanctuary. We proclaim that the river of life flows down from the cross, through the center aisle, and out to the baptismal font. That's the beginning of our journey of faith. God comes and claims us in these waters. We are named as children of God and are promised life in abundance.

In this week's sermon we hear the story of an Ethiopian eunuch from the book of Acts. The eunuch is looking for a place to belong and call home. He begins his journey with the gracious welcome of Phillip and the waters of baptism.

PRELUDE

POEM

CHARLES CALLAHAN

KRISTY GIERE, ORGANIST; RALPH SCHORNACK, PIANO

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

L: Praise and thanksgiving be to you, O God of plenteous grace,
for the waters you provide for the earth:
for snow and dew, for oceans and wells,
for the rain that nourishes plants and trees,
for the streams that enliven the animals, great and small,
for the Zumbro River.

We praise you, O God, for water.

C: We praise you, O God, for water.

L: Blessing and glory be to you, O God of abundant mercy,
for your word that flows with life-giving waters:
for the story of the fountain that gushed from the rock,
for the memory of the Jordan that immersed your Son in our sorrows,
for the living rivers that flow from the cross,
for the reconciling waters of baptism around which we gather.
We bless you, O God, for water and the word.

C: We bless you, O God, for water and the word.

L: At this font we pray:
Pour upon us yet again the Spirit of our baptism.
Our roots are dry: shower us with divine blessing.
Our fruits need moisture: renew us for vibrant growth.
Wash away the sin within us,
and drown the evil around us.
We beg you, O God, for water and the Spirit.

C: We beg you, O God, for water and the Spirit.

L: You, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
you are the Water we crave;
you, O God, are Rain and River and Fountain,
life for us all, now and forever.

C: Amen.

$\text{♪} = \text{♩}^3$

1 I'm go-ing on a jour-ney, and I'm start-ing to-day. My
head is wet, and I'm on my way. Christ's mark is on me;
it's on you, too; it says he loves me, and he loves you, too!

2 I'm be-com-ing this day a saint of God. It
real-ly does-n't mat-ter what roads I trod. Wher-ev-er I go, God's
been there, too. God's love has touched me and will car-ry me through.

3 There are oth-er saints who have said a-men. They'll
keep me faith-ful to my jour-ney's end. A - long the way
I want to be the kind of per-son that God set free.

GREETING

L: 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

BAPTIZED IN WATER

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king:
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise we sing.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king:
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

APOSTLES' CREED

C: 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.

BAPTISM OF KELLAN RICHARD PETERSON

Child of Emily and Joseph Peterson

Sponsors: Heather and Nick Christenson, Kari and Keith Allen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God of Welcome,

C: You flow through rivers and make your presence known in every corner of the earth. Thank you for flowing to us in the waters of baptism and welcoming us into your family. Thank you for your love in Jesus and for finding room for anyone and everyone in this family. We praise you for a grace that knows no bounds. In Jesus' name. Amen.

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: Holy wisdom, holy word,

C: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY

A VIRTUAL ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHOIR ANTHEM

TUNE: HOLY MANNA,
ARR. MARK SCHWEITZER

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner,
And more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior;
There is healing in His blood.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in Heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.
There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of our mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We should take Him at His word;
And our lives would be thanksgiving
For the goodness of the Lord.

SERMON

A GOD WHO FLOWS THROUGH RIVERS

PASTOR VERN CHRISTOPHERSON

HYMN

I WAS THERE TO HEAR YOUR BORNING CRY

**"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."**

**"When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."**

**"In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."**

**"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."**

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

WATERLIFE

JANETTE REEVES, SOLOIST

HANDT HANSON,
ARR. PHIL KADIDLO

Before I can remember the covenant was sealed.
With Father, Son, and Spirit, in water was revealed.
The cleansing was for certain, with water and the Word;
Gentle words were spoken, in heaven they were heard.

Refrain They were singing waterlife, beginning life,
waterlife. all my life, waterlife, Spirit life, waterlife.

A simple sweet beginning, a loving place to start:
Christ began the singing that swells within my heart.
His love became my calling, his life my ministry.
His name is my adoption into his family. *Refrain*

My hope and expectation for true community
begins with resurrection, his death and life in me.
His Spirit fills the Body: his church through water sees
promise for tomorrow, his waterlife in me. *Refrain*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

After each petition the congregation responds:

L: Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

L: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always..

C: Amen.

HYMN

WE KNOW THAT CHRIST IS RAISED



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God,
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

SENDING

L: People of Zumbro, what is our mission?

C: Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace, to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

TOCCATA ON "OH, WORSHIP THE KING"

KRISTY GIERE, ORGANIST

MICHAEL BURKHARDT

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Ruth (Glenn) Monson on the birth of their grandson, Wolf Henry Martin.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

Liam Kiefer

SYMPATHY TO:

Sharryn (Tim) on the death of her brother, John Dalsveen.

LaVonne Jergenson on the death of her daughter, Julie Stier.

Sympathy to Jim Fenske and family on the death of his mother, Viola (Fenske).

TODAY'S RADIO BROADCAST IS GIVEN:

in celebration of the 65th wedding anniversary of Carrey and Herb Olin. They were married at Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, South Minneapolis, on November 25, 1955.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

PROCLAIMER-Pastor Vern Christopherson; **WORSHIP ASSISTANT**-Pastor Shelley Cunningham;

LECTOR-Alex Kelsch; **STORYTIME**-Janette Reeves; **ORGANIST**-Kristy Giere; **SINGING**-Zumbro Lutheran Choir, Bob Giere, director; Paul Bye, Andy Larson, Kristy Giere, handbells and drum; **VIRTUAL CHOIR ANTHEM**

PRODUCER: Todd Christensen; **ENSEMBLE**-Ralph Schornack, piano; Bob Giere, guitar; Kristy Giere, flute;

SONGLEADER AND SOLOIST-Janette Reeves

Portions of the liturgy are from Sundays and Seasons.com. ©2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23803. New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. "I'm Going on a Journey." Words and music: Edward V. Bonnemere and Kenneth D. Larkin, ©1994 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-710913. All rights reserved. "Baptized in Water." Words: Michael Seward, ©1982 The Jubilate Group. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-710913. All rights reserved. "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy." ©St. James Music Press, 2010. www.sjmp.com Used by permission. St. James Music Press ID #2008. "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry." Words and music: John Ylvisaker, ©1985 John Ylvisaker. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-710913. All rights reserved. "Waterlife." Words and music: Handt Hanson, ©1991 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-710913. All rights reserved. "We Know That Christ is Raised." Words: John Brownlow Geyer, ©1982 Church Publishing, Inc. Music: Charles Stanford, ©1985 Church Publishing, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-710913. All rights reserved. Livestreaming License: Christian Copyright Solutions WORSHIPcast License #11147.



Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus.

