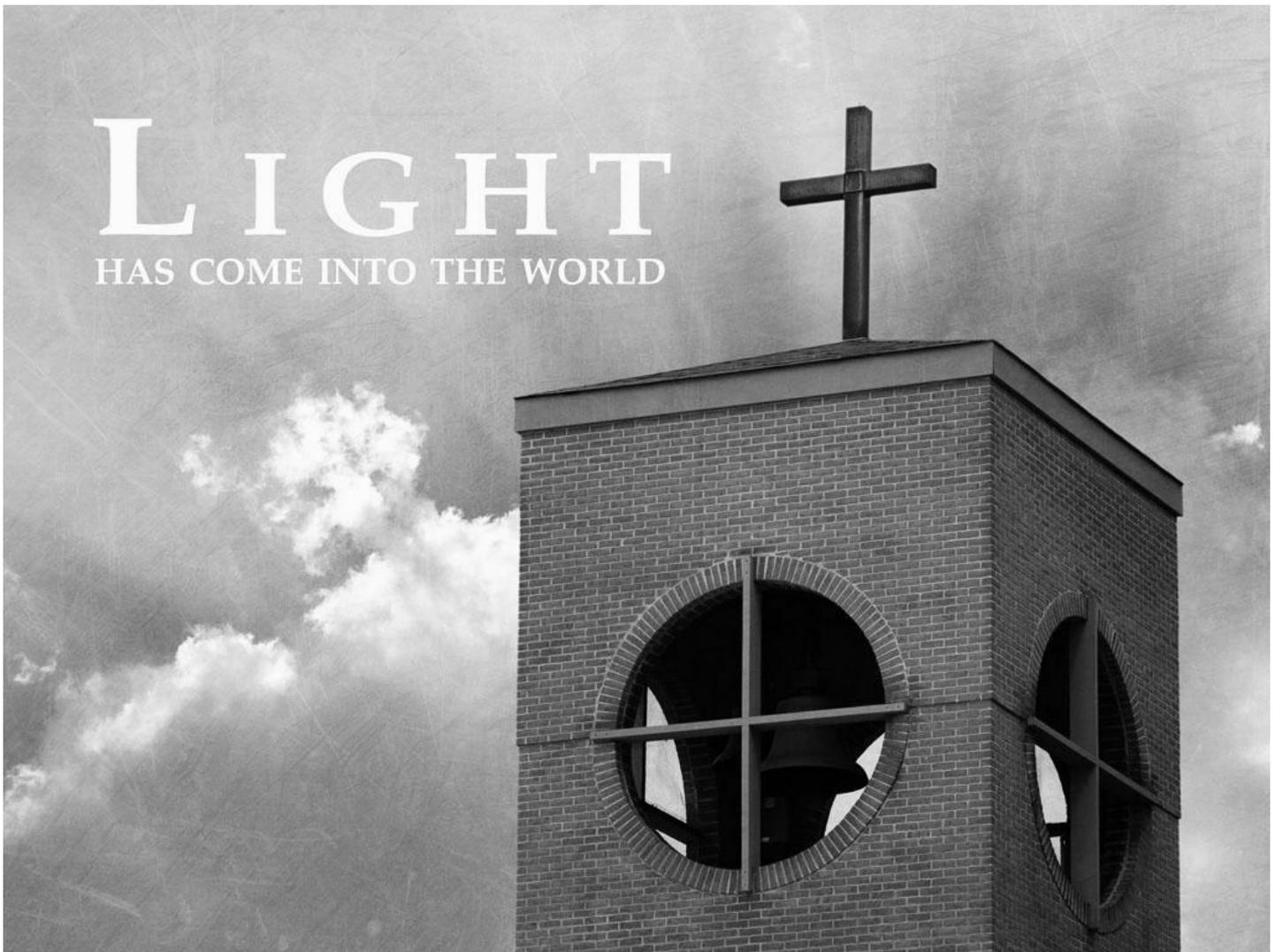


*An evening setting of Holy Communion*



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday, June 23, 2018

5:30 pm

Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

Weekend of John the Baptist

Interims: The Reverend Larry Hoover and Bishop Emeritus Gregory Pile

Church: 479-4110; Fax: 479-2994

[www.stdavidslutheran.org](http://www.stdavidslutheran.org)

# ***Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!***

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected with the offering.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians.

**Prayer Requests** may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

**For your comfort** there is a restroom, equipped with a changing table and supplies and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

**Devotional** – The worship folder you are holding is also a weekly devotional booklet. The prayers and Scripture readings are appropriate for use at any time during the week. The liturgy itself is a Scripturally based order for daily prayer and devotion with Scriptural references noted where they apply. Even the hymns are appropriate tools for prayer and praise. Finally, there is a daily lectionary of Scripture readings for the rest of the week on the last printed page.

## **INTRODUCTION**

John the Baptist is a unique figure in Christian memory, a hinge between the Old Testament prophets and the first Christians. In the gospel stories he recognizes Jesus as one greater than himself, one for whose coming he prepares the way. But still from his prison he asks if Jesus is truly the Expected One. He is a figure of perpetual Advent and in that way stands for all of us who may be Christian believers but still wait and wonder, discern and doubt.

## **BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Kneel/Sit*

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **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.**

## **KYRIE**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by your gracious providence your servant John the Baptist was born to Elizabeth and Zechariah. Grant to your people the wisdom to see your purpose and the openness to hear your will, that the light of Christ may increase in us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4**

A reading from Malachi the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

*{The prophet Malachi announces the coming of one who will prepare a way for God's arrival. His burning program of reform will make God's people ready for salvation.}*

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 141 (read responsively)**

My eyes are turned to you, Lord GOD. *(Ps. 141:8)*

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, I call to you; come to me quickly;  
hear my voice when I cry to you.

<sup>2</sup>**Let my prayer rise before you as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

<sup>3</sup>Set a watch before my mouth, O LORD,  
and guard the door of my lips.

<sup>4</sup>**Let not my heart incline to any evil thing.**

**Let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers, nor eat of their sweet foods.**

<sup>5</sup>Let the righteous strike me; their rebukes, as oil upon the head, are not to be refused.

Yet my prayers are continually against the deeds of the wicked.

<sup>6</sup>**Let their rulers be thrown down upon the stones,  
that they may hear my words, for they are sweet.**

<sup>7</sup>Just as one who tills the earth breaks the rock,  
so let their bones be scattered at the mouth of the grave.

**<sup>8</sup>But my eyes are turned to you, Lord GOD;  
in you I take refuge; strip me not of my life.**

<sup>9</sup>Guard me from the trap that they have laid for me  
and from the snares of evildoers.

**<sup>10</sup>Let the wicked fall into their own nets,  
while I alone pass through.**

*All: My eyes are turned to you, Lord GOD. (Ps. 141:8)*

## **SECOND READING: Acts 13:13-26**

A reading from Acts the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*{In Antioch of Pisidia, Paul preaches in the synagogue and recalls the ministry of John the Baptist, showing how John was the pivot point between history and the new acts God was performing through Jesus.}*

<sup>13</sup>Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. John, however, left them and returned to Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup>but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. <sup>15</sup>After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it." <sup>16</sup>So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak:

"You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. <sup>17</sup>The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. <sup>18</sup>For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. <sup>19</sup>After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance <sup>20</sup>for about four hundred fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. <sup>21</sup>Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. <sup>22</sup>When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, 'I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes.' <sup>23</sup>Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised; <sup>24</sup>before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. <sup>25</sup>And as John was finishing his work, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet.'

<sup>26</sup>“My brothers, you descendants of Abraham’s family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **GOSPEL: Luke 1:57-67**

The holy gospel according to Luke the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*{The birth and naming of John ends his father Zechariah’s silence. He announces the child’s name given by the angel and speaks a prophecy about the newborn infant.}*

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

<sup>59</sup>On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. <sup>60</sup>But his mother said, “No; he is to be called John.” <sup>61</sup>They said to her, “None of your relatives has this name.” <sup>62</sup>Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. <sup>63</sup>He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And all of them were amazed. <sup>64</sup>Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup>Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup>All who heard them pondered them and said, “What then will this child become?” For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

<sup>67</sup>Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

*The assembly stands.*

Together we confess our faith:

## **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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every place, praying for the world that God so loves.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, you send messengers to purify and refine your people, and your hand was with John, who prepared the way for Jesus. Renew and embolden your church to share the message of salvation by the forgiveness of sins. Let the youth of our churches hear your love for them (*as they gather in Houston this coming week*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy God, maker of heaven and earth and all things within them, bless this summer season and make us faithful stewards of your abundant provisions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy God, you do not leave your people defenseless. Guide the leaders of the nations so that they will be people after your own heart who carry out your wishes. Guide our feet into the way of peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy God, by your tender mercy the dawn from on high breaks upon us. Give the light of hope to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death so that they know your steadfast love. We pray especially for . . . . Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy God, watch over this community of faith and guard our hearts, minds, words, and actions. Inspire our youth to grow in faith. Keep in your care those who travel, those who are moving to a new home, and those who have no home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Holy God, you have looked favorably upon your people and have raised up a mighty savior for all in Jesus. Raise us up on the last day with all who have died in Christ (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

By the sure guidance of your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

*Please be seated, while the table is set.*

*The assembly stands.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God,  
you open wide your hand  
and satisfy the need of every living thing.  
You have set this feast before us.  
Open our hands to receive it.  
Open our hearts to embrace it.  
Open our lives to live it.  
We pray this through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

All glory to you, Almighty God, heavenly Father:  
out of Your great love for us You gave Your only Son Jesus,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have  
eternal life.

It was your Son Jesus  
who freely surrendered Himself to suffer death  
on the cross for us and for our salvation.

There, on that cross,  
He willingly offered Himself up as a full,  
perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

By that gift of love and grace  
we are your people,  
born of water and word,  
served, fed, and forgiven at your Holy Table  
and called together by Your Holy Spirit.

Therefore we offer ourselves  
as disciples who follow  
as witnesses to the world  
and as living memory of His gift of grace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine,  
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son our Lord.  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

On 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 many  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us:  
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son our Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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.**

## **LAMB OF GOD**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**grant us peace, grant us peace.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*The Holy Communion is distributed with these or similar words:*

The body of Christ, given for you

The blood of Christ, shed for you

*Following the Holy Communion the congregation stands:*

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

**Amen.**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Jesus Christ, host of this meal,  
you have given us not only this bread and cup,  
but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.

Filled again by these signs of your grace,  
may we hunger for your reign of justice,  
may we thirst for your way of peace,  
for you are Lord forevermore.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

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.

**Amen.**

## **QUIET MEDITATION**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

### **Left with a Question**

Jesus did not ask the water-battered, wave-ravaged disciples why they were not robust enough to weather the storm. There are, however, enough other questions about the storm-on-the-sea story, like: “What’s the deal with the other boats?” or “How could Jesus possibly sleep in such a gale?” or “Why mention that Jesus went ‘just as he was’?”

Four questions are asked out in the boat. The first one, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” is sensible. It is more than just a wee bit unreasonable to ride out all the storms and traumas of our nights and days in sinking ships—foreclosures and lay-offs, shootings, famine and floods, refugees on rafts, bloody battlefields, massacres in night clubs, abused children, neglected elders, hard deaths, easy injustices—without asking the sleeping Jesus, “Don’t you care?” Who has not asked that very question? It is older than Job’s complaints against God, who seemed too distant or too uncaring to be of any earthly good. It is the question that, despite rebukes for daring to ask it, will not go away. And it shouldn’t—should it? No easy answer flutters forth on swift and gentle wings.

As for the other questions, “Why are you afraid?” Seriously? Just look at the sea! Reason enough. And, “Still no faith?” To be fair, didn’t even Jesus, near death, have a scrimmage with doubt, crying “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34).

But it is the disciples’ demanding last question that lingers beyond the storm: “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (Mark 4:41). It is the reflection of a question Jesus was yet to ask: “Who do you say that I am?” (Mark 8:29). This question we too are left to answer.

## *Daily Readings for the Week June 24-30*

<b>Sunday:</b>	Job 38:1-11 Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41
<b>Monday:</b>	Psalm 65 Exodus 7:14-24 Acts 27:13-38
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Psalm 65 Exodus 9:13-35 Acts 27:39-44
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Psalm 65 Joshua 10:1-14 Mark 6:45-52
<b>Thursday:</b>	Psalm 30 Lamentations 1:16-22 2 Corinthians 7:2-16
<b>Friday:</b>	Psalm 30 Lamentations 2:1-12 2 Corinthians 8:1-7
<b>Saturday:</b>	Psalm 30 Lamentations 2:18-22 Luke 4:31-37

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