

4th Wednesday of Lent
March 15th, 2023
6:30pm Worship
(In-person & Livestream)



Water and the Spirit

A Lenten Series on John

Opening Dialogue

Come, you born of the Spirit, **be renewed in the waters of new life.**
Be fed and nourished by the Bread of Life; **find abundance and hope in him.**

Ask, and the living water will be given to you: **a well gushing up to eternal life.**

Be washed and see **the great and wonderful deeds of Christ our Lord.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW # 456 Baptized in Water

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

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:

Let us pray. Providing God, by water and the Spirit you give us new life. In your body and blood, you nourish us with yourself. In your promises, you give us living water so that we will never be thirsty again. Renew our spirits, cleanse us from sin, and lead us into abundance of life. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

Reading: John 2:1-11

¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

Prayers of Intercession:

Made one in the Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

For lakes and rivers, for groundwater and aquifers, for snow and rain, that the waters of the earth would be sustained to make all things whole, we pray.

Hear us, O God.

For the Spirit's presence in this congregation, for the work of the church, that your healing gospel is proclaimed in word and deed, we pray.

Hear us, O God.

For local, statewide, and national leaders, for the wisdom to make life-giving decisions for the people, that the spirit of goodness is freed in every place, we pray.

Hear us, O God.

For all suffering want, for the thirsty, the hungry, the outcast, and the oppressed, and for all those we name now before you out loud or in our hearts...we pray.

Hear us, O God.

For those born of the Spirit who have gone on to rest in you, for their witness and their example, that we may imitate their lives and deeds to your glory, we pray. **Hear us, O God.**

For the presence of your Spirit among us in water and in word, that our lives may reflect you for the sake of the world, we pray.

Hear us, O God.

All this and anything else that you see that we need, grant us O God, through our Lord Jesus Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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.**

Sending Hymn: ELW # 453 Baptized and Set Free

- 1 **We are people created, chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently, in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more.
Jesus opened the door to a fountain bringing healing,
and wholeness and more.**
- 2 **We are fed and we're nourished, filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed.
For whatever the need, God is greater indeed:
endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need.**
- 3 **We are nourished by water, all living things,
and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home, may your presence be known:
precious river, ever-flowing, now carry us home.**
- 4 **Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free! From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water, baptized and set free!**

Benediction:

May the God who caused the blind to see and the dead to live,
who multiplied the celebration and is the bread of life,
raise up a wellspring of living water in you,
that by water and the Spirit you may know the blessings of eternal life,
in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us go forth in peace.