

<sup>4</sup> And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." <sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

**Hymn of the Day:** 375 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

**Sermon:** Divine Approval

**Offering:** *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

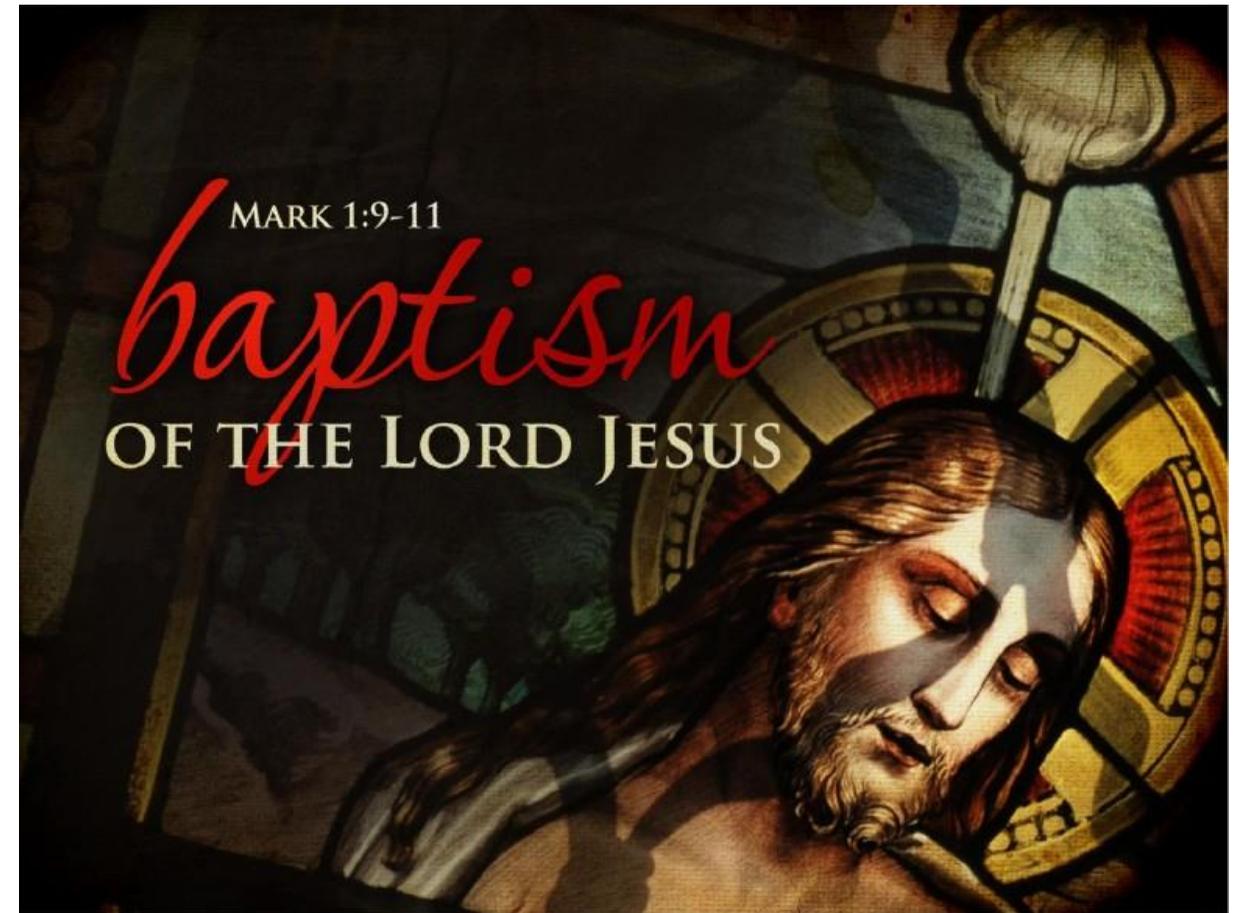
**3rd Hymn:** 377 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

**Closing Hymn:** 379 Amazing Grace

**Ushers:** This Week – Tyler Danielson & Tim Walsh  
Next Week – Russ Schuld & Justin Draeger

**Greeters:** This Week – Richard & Elaine Engelhardt  
Next Week – Sharon Waldmann

\*Contribution statements are in the mailboxes in the church narthex. If anyone has a correction to be made, please call Linda Haberman at 262-593-2736.



**January 13 & 14, 2018**

**St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church**

**P.O. Box 86, Helenville, Wisconsin**

**Church Tel: 920-674-3307**

**School Tel: 262-582-3010**

*Pastor: Mark Swanson*

*Principal: Craig Winkler*

*Organist: Darek Hartwig*

## We Welcome You!

*During the Epiphany season we want to get to know Jesus. This Sunday we get to know him by baptism, both his and ours. But the glory is evident only to a chosen few; notice, too, that the greater the glory, the more hidden its manifestation—the glory of our life with Christ is by faith, not by sight.*

**Opening Hymn:** 16 One Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cries

**Order of Worship:** Service of Word and Sacrament pg. 26

### **Prayer of the Day:**

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### **God's Word for Today:**

**First Lesson:** Isaiah 49:1-6 (*On the surface the ministry that Jesus began at his baptism appears to be an exercise in futility. But just as the Father said at his baptism, God was well pleased with his Son. That work therefore would be blessed richly, even though few realize or see it. It would be richly blessed in each of those who the Father gives to the Son—the Son wins them first and gives them to the Father and then the Father gives them back to the Son as rewards for his labors to win them! When you think of your baptism, think of this joyful and reciprocal giving inside of the Trinity at your baptism and through the rest of your life with and in Christ.*)

Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name. <sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor.” <sup>4</sup> But I said, “I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing. Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God.” <sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says—he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength—<sup>6</sup> he says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.”

**Psalm 2:** Pg. 65 (*Sung together*)

**Second Lesson:** Acts 26:25-34 (*God showed his power in the earthquake. But that display of power created only dread and terror in the heart of the jailor. It was the glory embedded in the gospel, the hidden power of the gospel in Word and sacrament, that brought the jailor life and joy in the forgiveness of his sins. Notice the silly question of the jailor: What must I do to be saved?—as though anyone could do anything to be saved from the God who has the power displayed in the earthquake. Paul's answer is not: This is what you must do ...His answer is: It has all been done; there is nothing for you to do; receive the benefit in faith and in baptism! For believing is not a doing, as Paul makes so clear in Romans 4; it is a receiving of a wage earned by another. So, do you want to see the power of God? If you want to see it in nature, that's fine; but then be ready to tremble and quake in fear and terror. There's a better and far more blessed way: consider your baptism. The Trinity was there in grace and mercy to forgive you and receive you as a child and heir of eternal life; that display of power, so secret and mysterious, is revealed to you now and its benefits lasts forever...)*

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. <sup>27</sup> The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted, “Don't harm yourself! We are all here!” <sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup> They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” <sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. <sup>33</sup> At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. <sup>34</sup> The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

**Verse of the Day:** Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased. Alleluia.

**Gospel:** Mark 1:4-11 (*It's almost a secret that Jesus was baptized; it appears that no one was there to witness it except for John. But what an amazing announcement! As the lowliest of the low baptized the highest of the high, the Trinity showed itself; the Spirit covered and filled the lowly human nature of the Son, and the Father attested to his favor in all that the Son is and is about to do. But it was all a secret except to John and now to us, to whom God reveals it in his Word and in our baptism. For there, too, is a mystery and secret known only to God and to those he reveals it. In your baptism the Trinity is hidden, but really there: the Spirit covers and comes to dwell in you; the Son presents you to his Father as one for whom he did all of his work; the Father is well pleased with you because of what his Son has done for you.*)