

# Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

325 E. Warwick Dr. ~ Alma, Michigan ~ 48801

463-5754 ~ www.peacealma.org

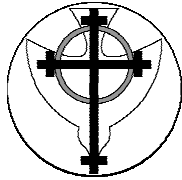
Email: contact@peacealma.org

Office Hours Tues 10-2, Thurs 11:30-12:30, Fri 10-2

**Rev. Thomas C. Messer, Pastor**

Home: 463-3093 ~ Cell: (989) 388-2037

Email: pastor@peacealma.org



## The Nativity of St. John the Baptist 24 June Anno ✝ Domini 2012

### Welcome

Welcome to the Lord's House this morning for Divine Service. Rejoice, for the Lord comes to you here in this place to give you His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation through His precious means of grace – His Holy Word and Sacraments. We pray the Lord's richest blessings upon you as you receive these Divine gifts. Please take the time to fill out the **Record of Fellowship form** that is in the pew. If you are visiting with us this morning, we want you to know that we are overjoyed that you are here. Please make your visit known to us by introducing yourself to us after the Service and by signing the guest book that is in the hallway on the left as you leave the sanctuary. The Lord be with us in Divine Service this morning!

### Holy Communion Practice

- The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. In preparation for receiving this blessed Sacrament, you may refer to Martin Luther's "Christian Questions with Their Answers" found on pages 329-330 in *LSB*.
- Communicants at this altar are to be in full confessional fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the LCMS are asked, out of love and Christian responsibility, to refrain from partaking with us this morning. If you have any questions regarding Holy Communion, you are invited and encouraged to speak with the pastor before or after the Service.
- See Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

### Our Mission Statement

The mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to welcome all people into the fellowship of God's love by proclaiming the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ and to nurture our members with God's Holy Word and Sacraments.



*"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins" (Luke 1:76-77)*

# The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

24 June Anno † Domini 2012



## LSB DIVINE SERVICE 4, PAGE 203

### The Service of Preparation

*(Upon entering the nave, silence should be observed to allow all the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the Lord and the reception of His gifts)*

#### **Preparatory Prayer**

*Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord.*

#### **The Prelude and Ringing of the Bells**

*(At the conclusion of the Ringing of the Bells, the congregation stands and faces the processional cross for the Processional Hymn. It is customary to continue facing the cross as it is processed in and to bow your head and make the sign of the cross in reverence and admiration to the Lord as it passes your pew. The same applies for the recessional as Service concludes.)*

**The Processional Hymn:** 505 “Triune God, Be Thou Our Stay”

*(will sing all three italicized stanzas)*

#### **The Confession and Absolution (as printed here):**

**P** In the Name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination*

# THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

(From the Treasury of Daily Prayer)

St. John the Baptizer, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, was born into a priestly family. His birth was miraculously announced to his father by an angel of the Lord (Luke 1:5-23), and on the occasion of his birth, his aged father proclaimed a hymn of praise (Luke 1:67-79). This hymn is entitled the Benedictus and serves as the traditional Gospel Canticle in the Church's Service of Morning Prayer. Events of John's life and his teaching are known from accounts in all four of the Gospels. In the wilderness of Judea, near the Jordan River, John began to preach a call to repentance and a baptismal washing, and he told the crowds, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). John denounced the immoral life of the Herodian rulers, with the result that Herod Antipas, the tetrarch of Galilee, had him arrested and imprisoned in the huge fortress of Machaerus near the Dead Sea. There Herod had him beheaded (Mark 6:17-29). John is remembered and honored as the one who with his preaching pointed to "the Lamb of God" and "prepared the way" for the coming of the Messiah.

## The Service of the Sacrament

*(Please read the statement regarding Holy Communion on the back of the bulletin)*

**The Preface and Proper Preface** (p. 208)

**The Sanctus** (p. 208)

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving** (p. 209)

**The Lord's Prayer** (p. 209)

**The Words of Our Lord** (p. 209)

**The Pax Domini** (p. 209)

**The Agnus Dei** (p. 210)

*Communicants are invited to pray the following:*

*Before receiving the Sacrament:*

*Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

*Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament:*

*Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.*

### Distribution Hymns

613 "To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All"

406 "To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord"

344 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

**The Nunc Dimittis** (p. 211)

**The Post-Communion Collect** (p. 212)

**The Benedicamus and Benediction** (p. 212)

**The Recessional Hymn:** 917 "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"

**The Postlude**

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## The Service of the Word

**The Introit**

*Luke 1:68, 76-69; antiphon: Mal. 3:1*



Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me.

And the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

**Blessèd be the LORD God of Israel,**

**for he has visited and redeemed his people.**

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the LORD to prepare his ways,

**to give knowledge of salvation to his people**

**in the forgiveness of their sins,**

because of the tender mercy of our God,

whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

**to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,**

**to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me.

And the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

**The Kyrie** (p. 204)

**The Gloria in Excelsis** (p. 204)

## **The Salutation and Collect of the Day** (p. 205)

Almighty God, through John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, You once proclaimed salvation. Now grant that we may know this salvation and serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life; through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **The Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 40:1-5*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

## **The Gradual**

*Jer. 1:5, 9a*

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;

**I appointed you a prophet to the nations.**

**Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.**

## **The Second Reading**

*Acts 13:13-26*

<sup>13</sup>Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John 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 from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it." <sup>16</sup>So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said:

"Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. <sup>17</sup>The God of this people Israel chose our fathers 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>And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. <sup>19</sup>And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. <sup>20</sup>All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. <sup>21</sup>Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. <sup>22</sup>And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' <sup>23</sup>Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised. <sup>24</sup>Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. <sup>25</sup>And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

<sup>26</sup>"Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation."

## **The Alleluia and Verse** (p. 205)

## **The Holy Gospel**

*Luke 1:57-80*

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup>And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, <sup>60</sup>but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." <sup>61</sup>And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." <sup>62</sup>And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. <sup>63</sup>And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. <sup>64</sup>And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. <sup>65</sup>And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, <sup>66</sup>and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

<sup>67</sup>And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

<sup>68</sup>"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people <sup>69</sup>and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup>as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, <sup>71</sup>that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; <sup>72</sup>to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup>the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us <sup>74</sup>that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup>because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high <sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

<sup>80</sup>And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

## **The Nicene Creed** (p. 206)

## **The Hymn of the Day:** 346 "When All the World Was Cursed"

## **The Sermon**

## **The Prayer of the Church** (p. 207)

**P** . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

## **The Offering**

*("Lamb of God" - Children)*

*(If you have not done so already, please sign and share the Fellowship folders in the pews to assist us in keeping accurate attendance records. Thank you.)*