



Jesus was baptized by John  
in the Jordan

MARK 1:9



**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520  
717-569-1632

Website: [www.trinityeastpete.org](http://www.trinityeastpete.org) E-Mail: [secretary@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:secretary@trinityeastpete.org)

The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr.Carolyn Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director

Mr. James Landis, Interim Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

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**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY/BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**  
**7:45 A.M. SERVICE**

**Today's Theme:** Our recreation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

**Welcome all visitors!** We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

**Welcome to the Eucharist!** All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion. *Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.*

**Prayer As You Enter:** *Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

#### AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Arise, shine; for your light has come; and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Lift up your eyes and look around; sons and daughters gather together, they come to you.

**Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice.**

**They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.**

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

### CONFESSION OF SINS

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

God has come to us in Christ, but we often live as if it made no difference.

**Let us confess our sins before God in silent prayer.**

*(SEATED OR KNEELING)*

#### SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

#### CONFESSION OF SIN

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

**God, our rock and refuge, we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

#### KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## ACT OF PRAISE

O God, open my lips.

**And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

## COLLECT FOR BAPTISM OF OUR LORD/FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Let us pray the collect together.

**God of life, who flows in us and through us, cleanse our hearts, minds, and spirits. May we be awash in the light of your life-giving love, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5

*Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

### THE PSALTER

Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

**The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

**The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'

**The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever. May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

## **THE SECOND LESSON**

Acts 19:1-7

*In Ephesus Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

St. Mark 1:4-11

*Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.*

*Glory be to You, O Lord.*

## **THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD**

*Praise be to You, O Christ.*

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## **SERMON**

**"Remember Your Baptism!"**

**Pastor Rankin**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **PEOPLE'S OFFERING**

### **OFFERING DEDICATION**

God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in a dark world. May they bring your light to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness. Accept these gifts of money and time, indeed, the gift of our very selves. Let them shine for all to see, and be brought into the sphere of your love and righteousness. Amen.

### **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. In ancient days, you created us in your image to be reflections of your glory. When we fell short and dimmed the brilliance of your light shining through us, you held our hands and walked with us out of the garden into all the corners of the earth. When we were afraid to look upon your glory, you came as a quiet traveler, as a burning bush, and as a pillar of light. You called us to be people of light, to walk no longer in darkness, and always, you light our way. Even when we walk in darkness, you shine your light and offer your grace, awaiting our return to you. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reveal your glory and grace. And so, with your people on earth and all the angels in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

### THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

### BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

**The Bread of Life, broken for us.**

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

**The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.**

*(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements in the narthex and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. **Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.**)*

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

### POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

### *SILENT PRAYER*

Let us pray together.

**Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.**

## **CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

### **RESPONSIVE BLESSING**

Arise, and go forth to shine for all the world to see.

**We go to spread the good news of light and love, righteousness and justice.**

May the blessing of the God of light rest upon you and fill you with light. Amen.



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★ **CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY** ★

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chancel Flowers are given by **Brenda, Harry, & Gary Himelwright** in honor of Brenda's (January 13) & Harry's (January 7) birthdays & their anniversary on January 17th.

The Worship Aids are given by **Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman** to express our thanks to Trinity's congregation for the care, concern, and cards for the illnesses we have experienced during 2023. These 3 c's have aided in our endurance and recovery. **THANK YOU!**

**Ministering Today**

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
<b>Lector/Assistant</b>	Rev. Sandy Morris
<b>Money Counters</b>	Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller, Denise Pfeiffer
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Anita Rohrer, Charlene Cristy
<b>Building Trustee</b>	Mike Wagner
<b>Koinonia</b>	Cherie Cataldi
<b>Ministries</b>	<b>Card</b> Christian Education Committee (Bob Kilgore) <b>Called to Care</b> Anne Rankin <b>Visitation</b> Sue Bowman

**This Week at Trinity Church**

**(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)**

Today	Church undecorating following 10:30 AM Service
Monday	7:00 PM – Choir/8:15 PM Bells
Tuesday	7:00 PM – Preschool Bd.-Choir Room Property Committee-Isenberg Hall
Thursday	10:00 AM – Mercersburg Study Group 6:00 PM – Cub Scouts Parish Life
Friday	<b>ANNUAL REPORTS DUE</b>
Saturday	8:00 AM – Men's Breakfast 7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA
Sunday	7:45 AM – Eucharist 9:00 AM – Sunday School 10:00 AM - Koinonia 10:30 AM – Worship/Installation of Consistory Members

Attendance for Sun., Dec. 31

7:45–10 10:30–49 TOTAL – 59

## Happy Birthday

Today – Shelby DeLong, Harry Himelwright, Delaney Minder

Monday – Rick Mowrer

Thursday – Samantha DeLong, Mark Eyer

Saturday – Brenda Himelwright, Walter Tyndall, Stacie (Eberly) McCormick

## PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

### MEMBERS

Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman

Leo Daly

Hedwig Hunsicker

Michael McDonough

John Shelsky

Scott & Jane Owens

Don & Pat Miller

Nancy Patton

Dr. Janet Harriger

The Lehman family

Joann Peck

Harry Himelwright

Donna Wolf & Family

Shelly Family

Mary Lou Shaab

Stan & Pat Seachrist

Donna Zirkel

Carmen & Jerry Richards

Rev. Dave & Mid Gockley

Sam Minder III

Lainie Christensen

Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser

Hank Fox

Pastor Harry Royer

Betty Tyndall and family

Mary Witmer

Bob & Marlyn Wible

Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline

Erika Otthofer

Kathleen Sensenig Adams

Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman

Ron Becker

Danielle Huggins Holbein

Joann & Dawn Garvin

The Fischer Family

Dr. Blaine Connor

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

The family of Charles Booraem

Larry Gerlach (brother of Dolly Barr)

Annette Stork (niece of Pat Sensenig)

Logan Davis (husband of Hillary Bossert-Davis)

Jean Weglarz (neighbor of Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline)

Dan Doughton (Family friend of John and Sarah Paulukow)

Melby Bush (friend of Joan Sensenig)

Harvey & Dianne Sick (friends of Judy Chapman)

Aaron Flickinger (nephew of Pat & Joan Sensenig)

Bill Zahm (brother of Phyllis Zimmerman)

Deb Olley Heagy (daughter of Jack & Karen Olley)

Donna Esbenshade (wife of Rev. Jack Esbenshade)

The Haverstick Family (friends of Mike & Shelley Wagner)

Tom Riley (friend of Bud McCarty)

Rev. Loy Garber (former seminarian)

Roland Anderson and family (friends of John & Kayla Brennan)

Jaden Allen (nephew of Carol Kratz)

Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty)

The Bruno family (friends of Blaine Connor)

Jessica Brown (niece of Mike & Shelley Wagner)  
Janice Zimmerman (sister of Ken Zimmerman)  
John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)  
Kelly Quick (friend of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)  
Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)  
James Malone & family  
Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)  
Janet Owens (sister-in-law of Scott & Jane Owens)  
Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)  
Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig),  
Don Pfeifer (husband of Denise Pfeifer)  
Jake & Jean Otthofer (parents of Dan Otthofer)  
The Martin family  
Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards)  
Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright)  
Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)  
Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)  
Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)  
Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)  
John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)  
Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

**THE JANUARY PARISH POST** is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building.

**DEVOTIONALS:** The January-March edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available on the table across from the church office. Please help us by delivering envelopes to some of our homebound members!

**THE MEN OF TRINITY (M.O.T.) BREAKFAST:** The men will be meeting in January 13th at 8:00 AM at Family Fare Restaurant. There is a sign-up sheet across from the church office.

**CHURCH UNDECORATING:** Please plan to stay after the 10:30a.m. service TODAY to help remove and pack up Christmas decorations from the exterior and interiors of the church. Thank you in advance for your assistance in packing up decorations in preparation for next year

**FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

**Psalm 29****SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7**

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” <sup>3</sup>Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” <sup>4</sup>Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” <sup>5</sup>On hearing this,

they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—<sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

**Next Sunday’s Readings:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51.

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ELCA-R

**2023 ANNUAL REPORTS:** The 2023 annual reports are due to the church office by January 12!

**175<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY GIFTS:** There are extra copies of the historical book, the prayer book and the anniversary pens and magnets on the table across from the church office.

**GRIEF GROUPS:** Prior to the pandemic, Pastor Chris was hoping to form some small groups to look at issues of grief. Please contact him or Carol Kratz if you are interested in participating in one of the groups!

**KOINONIA/SUNDAYMORNING FELLOWSHIP:** We have resumed koinonia (community fellowship) every Sunday at 10 a.m. in Isenberg Hall. Volunteers are asked to provide light refreshments and drinks/coffee. The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen coordinator. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes. **Coffee is always available between 7:45 service and Sunday School.**

**PRAYER SHAWL** The Prayer Shawl will meet Tuesday, January 16 from 1:00-3:00 PM. They will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month! Come and bring a friend. Hope to see many of you there! Contact Betty Tyndall for more information.



**THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET ON THE TABLE ACROSS FROM THE OFFICE!**



**2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS:** Upcoming dates for worship aids are: January 21. Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are January 21. The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.

**COMMUNITY MEAL ANNOUNCEMENT:** A community meal will be held at First Reformed in Lancaster on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is a signup sheet on the table outside the church office for donations. All contributions must be delivered to our church by Sunday, January 21. Additionally, folks are welcome to donate grocery gift cards that can be used to supply community meals.

**2023 CELEBRATION:** Join us after the 10:30 service on January 28 for a luncheon and celebration of our ministry in 2023. The Parish Life Committee is planning a short program as we look back over the past year in our annual reports and through a video slideshow. Look for more details about the luncheon in the bulletins. A sign-up sheet is available on the table across from the church office.

**LEADERSHIP SEMINAR:** The Pastor/Parish Committee is working with the Samaritan Counseling Center to provide a leadership seminar on effective communication to be held on Saturday, February 3 (snow date is February 10). This is for members of Consistory and the various committees/boards. We are planning to meet in Isenberg Hall at 9:00 a.m. and will be finished by noon. Look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office and watch for more details in the bulletins and the February Parish Post.

**LIFE LINE SCREENING**, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Trinity United Church of Christ on **Saturday, March 2, 2024**. A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered: **Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque), Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA), Atrial Fibrillation**

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://llsa.social/>