

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe
THE REIGN OF CHRIST: WITH THE BAPTISM OF LUCAS JOHN BARR
NOVEMBER 24, 2024
Reverend Tom Hubschmid

Invitation to Worship

The Gathering of the Community

Standing as able

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: We acknowledge our presence on the ancestral lands of the Algonquin Anishinaabe nation.

All: **In a spirit of reconciliation, may we always seek to respect the history, spirituality, and culture of Indigenous Peoples and uphold our continuing responsibility as treaty people.**

Celebrant: Almighty God,

People: **to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest

People: **and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly king,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty and everlasting God,
whose will it is to restore all things
in your well-beloved Son, our Lord and King,
grant that the peoples of the earth,
now divided and enslaved by sin,
may be freed and brought together
under his gentle and loving rule;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: **Amen**

The Proclamation of The Word

Reader: A reading from the Second Book Of Samuel Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favourite of the Strong One of Israel: The spirit of the Lord speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken, the Rock of Israel has said to me: One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land. Is not my house like this with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. Will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire? But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away; for they cannot be picked up with the hand; to touch them one uses an iron bar or the shaft of a spear. And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot. 2 SAMUEL 23:1-7

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Our Psalm is Psalm 132:1-13

Lord, remember David,

All: **and all the hardships he endured;**

Reader: How he swore an oath to the Lord

All: **and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:**

Reader: "I will not come under the roof of my house,

All: **nor climb up into my bed;**

Reader: I will not allow my eyes to sleep,

All: **nor let my eyelids slumber;**

Reader: Until I find a place for the Lord,

All: **a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."**

Reader: "The ark! We heard it was in Ephratah;

All: **we found it in the fields of Jearim.**

Reader: Let us go to God's dwelling place;

All: **let us fall upon our knees before his footstool."**

Reader: Arise, O Lord, into your resting-place,

All: **you and the ark of your strength.**

Reader: Let your priests be clothed with righteousness;

All: **let your faithful people sing with joy.**

Reader: For your servant David's sake,

All: **do not turn away the face of your anointed.**

Reader: The Lord has sworn an oath to David;

All: **in truth, he will not break it:**

Reader: "A son, the fruit of your body

All: **will I set upon your throne.**

Reader: If your children keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them,

All: **their children will sit upon your throne for evermore."**

Reader: A Reading From The Revelation To John

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be.

Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. REVELATION 1:4B-8

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

The Gospel

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to JOHN 18:33-37

People: **Glory be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Celebrant: Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you

are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily - Baptism and the Reign of Christ

God made known in Christ, may only the truth be spoken and only the truth heard. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

When we're born, we're born with two kinds of belonging. One comes before the other, but it's forgotten about as we grow into the second kind of belonging. When we're born, we are first a child of life. We're a gift of God's own making. We belong to the realm of our Creator's power. And when we look a newborn in the face, and when parents behold their baby's face, so fresh and new, we all know this on some level. Life is a gift, from a power bigger than life. A child's first kind of belonging, and our first kind of belonging, is to life itself and to the source of life itself that we call God.

Give it a few minutes and we have a second kind of belonging. We're put into a logbook with a name, a date, parents, a place; we're given a certificate. We're Canadians. Or Nigerians. Or Venezuelans. Then some of us move, and we're from two countries. And it's right and good to have this kind of belonging: to a people, a place, to customs and traditions, to a history. But often national belonging drowns out that original kind of belonging, so bright and gleaming when a child arrives from the womb, in any place and in every time that God has made.

When Jesus stands on trial before Pilate, we see a faceoff of sorts. We see two kinds of king for two kinds of Kingdom, one of which soon after fades away – Rome – the other of which will never fade – the realm of God – even when crushed by the worst a human kingdom can do. Jesus stands unthreatened by the cruelty and evil he will face. Pilate, on the other hand, isn't exactly threatened by Jesus; he is mostly just confused and blind to the fact that there is another kind of power than his own power and Ceasar's power. It's the power of life itself and truth itself, without which, nothing else would be. And is a power which will remain even when everything we build crumbles.

Pilate summons Jesus. Jesus is the Creator incarnate, the Son of the Father and the child of Mary in one person. Jesus obeys. He's in chains. This is the kind of power human rulers have. They can force people to do things. Pilate asks what to him seems like a ridiculous question: "Are you the King of the Jews?" Well, does he look like a King? Not really. Jesus responds with a view to Pilate's soul, as a mere human, whose true Lord isn't Ceasar, but God whose power lets Pilate be born and live from moment to moment. "Do you ask this of your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate's answer is another way of saying, "whoa, man, I'm just governing a nation here. I'm in charge. I ask the questions. Just tell me why you're on trial."

Then Jesus confuses him further. “My Kingdom is not from this world.” Not from, Jesus says, but that doesn’t mean not here. His power and his realm are very much here. In fact, there would be no here, no world, if God the Father didn’t create all things by means of this divine person, the Son, who Jesus is before his incarnation, and who Jesus remains as he stands in chains looking a little human King in the eye. Jesus continues, “If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over...” Jesus is saying; Pilate, you fight and force – I create and make new. There is no nation on earth – just or unjust – that can uphold its borders and its laws without force. When God called ancient Israel and established them as a nation among nations, there was blood shed. A lot of it. And so it goes that even a just and righteous nation needs to use force at some point, even when it’s just handcuffs, to uphold laws.

But Jesus affirms a kind of belonging and identity that has a freedom no law can touch or force. It’s belonging to life itself under the power of the Creator of life itself. “So, you are a King?” Pilate asks, still confused. What kind of King claims to have a kingdom without an army ready to defend him from other Kings like Pilate and Caesar? “You say that I am a King,” Jesus answers. It’s this sort of offhand dismissal of Pilate, because Pilate just doesn’t get what’s going on in front of him. Then Jesus brings the message home. “For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Truth? Pilate knows what every governor and king knows. “What is truth?” He knew that in his time, and many others, truth is exactly relevant to being Roman, except when it was useful.

Jesus, however, is the truth of life on earth itself, the Creator’s own voice, incarnate as one of us: a Jewish girl’s baby boy. And he is the witness to truth, because he is truth itself. What he shows is that he can be betrayed, put in chains, falsely tried, and executed at the hands of all that is wrong and false with the world. But by rising on the third day, he shows that truth will insist and it will out. Jesus has a power of another Kingdom entirely. It’s here, haunting us at all times, that power so evident when a child is born. Jesus’ Kingdom is the realm of life itself, and his power is that which makes life possible.

So, Jesus opens a way back to our first belonging. To join ourselves to him by faith is to re-join ourselves to the truth we belonged to when we were created and born. To be joined to him in his death is to receive his own refusal and his own defeat of the worldly powers that win us over and rob us of who we really are. To be joined to him is to receive his own resurrected life, re-created, made new, belonging to truth alone.

Belonging to Jesus’s Kingdom is free, truly free. His law is enforced only by the Holy Spirit. His throne and crown are nothing other than his place as the Creator’s own voice and Son. So being a citizen of his Kingdom is all about letting God change and heal us from the inside out, moving and governing us from a heart bound in love to Jesus.

May his Kingdom come, and may it be on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Silence for reflection

The Celebration Of The Baptism

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

Celebrant: The candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents and sponsors: ***I present Lucas John Barr to receive the sacrament of baptism.***

Celebrant: Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is nurtured in the faith and life of the Christian community?

Parents and sponsors: ***I will, with God's help.***

Celebrant: Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and sponsors: ***I will, with God's help.***

Celebrant: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Parents and sponsors: ***I renounce them.***

Celebrant: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Parents and sponsors: ***I renounce them.***

Celebrant: Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Parents/sponsors: ***I renounce them.***

Celebrant: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Saviour?

Parents/sponsors: ***I do.***

Celebrant: Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Parents/sponsors: ***I do.***

Celebrant: Do you promise to obey him as your Lord?

Parents/sponsors: ***I do.***

To the congregation:

Celebrant: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support Lucas in his life in Christ?

People: **We will.**

Prayers for the Candidate

Celebrant: Let us now pray for Lucas who is to receive the sacrament of new birth.

Reader: Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Open his hearts to your grace and truth.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Send him into the world in witness to your love.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Grant, O Lord,
that all who are baptized
into the death of Jesus Christ your Son
may live in the power of his resurrection
and look for him to come again in glory;
who lives and reigns now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: We give you thanks, almighty God and Father, for by the gift of water you nourish and sustain all living things.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Celebrant: We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea, you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Celebrant: We give you thanks for sending your Son Jesus. For us he was baptized by John in the river Jordan. For us he was anointed as Christ by your Holy Spirit. For us he suffered the baptism of his own death and resurrection, setting us free from the bondage of sin and death, and opening to us the joy and freedom of everlasting life.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Celebrant: We give you thanks for your Holy Spirit who teaches us and leads us into all truth, filling us with his gifts so that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations and serve you as a royal priesthood.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Celebrant: We give you thanks for you have called Lucas to new life through the waters of baptism. Now sanctify this water, that your servant who is washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Anoint him with your Holy Spirit and bring him to new birth in the family of your Church, that they may become inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

Celebrant: We give you praise and honour and worship through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All: **Blessed are you, our strength and song, and our salvation.**

To the congregation

Celebrant: Let us join now with the parents and godparents of Lucas who, on his behalf, make this commitment to Christ, and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God,
The Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **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 to the dead.

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.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **I believe in God the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself? People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

The Baptism

Celebrant: Lucas, I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Celebrant: Lucas, I sign you with the cross, and mark you as Christ's own for ever.

Celebrant: Heavenly Father,
we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit
you have bestowed upon Lucas
the forgiveness of sin,
and have raised them to the new life of grace.
Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit.
Give them an inquiring and discerning heart,
the courage to will and to persevere,
a spirit to know and to love you,
and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

All: **Amen.**

The Giving Of The Light

Celebrant: Receive the light of Christ,
to show that you have passed
from darkness to light.

All: **Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.**

Standing as able

Celebrant: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

People: **We receive you into the household of God.**

**Confess the faith of Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant: Eternal God,

by your grace you have raised us up

and enthroned us with Christ in the heavenly realms.

Receive all we offer you this day,

and lead us in those good works

for which you have created us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All: **Amen**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God,

creator of heaven and earth;

we give you thanks and praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You exalted him as Lord of all creation

that he might present to you

an eternal and universal kingdom:

a kingdom of truth and life,

a kingdom of holiness and grace,

a kingdom of justice, love, and peace.

Therefore at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow

as heaven and earth proclaim the glory of your name.

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, Lord our God,

for the goodness and love

you have made known to us in creation;

in calling Israel to be your people;

in your Word spoken through the prophets;

and above all in the Word made flesh,
Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us
out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness,
out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
and said, " Take, eat:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them,
and said, "Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,
All: we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving
to you, Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation,
this bread and this wine.
We pray you, gracious God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,

that they may be the sacrament
of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,
that we, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
In the fullness of time,
reconcile all things in Christ,
and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.
People: **Amen.**

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
People: **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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: Creator of all,
you gave us golden fields of wheat,
whose many grains we have gathered
and made into this one bread.
All: **So may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth
into your kingdom.**

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Communion

Celebrant: Almighty God,
you have made us a royal priesthood
in the kingdom of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Make known his victory through us, we pray,
that all the world may see his light.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
All: **Amen**

Celebrant: Glory to God,
All: **whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: May the grace of God uphold you,
the peace of God surround you,
the love of God flow from you
and the strength of God protect
and bring you safely through this day.
and the blessing of God almighty,
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
Be among you and remain with you always.
All: **Amen**

Celebrant: Go forth in the name of Christ.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

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