

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, established and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

January 9, 2022

Psalm 29

- ¹ Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- ² **Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.**
- ³ The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, upon many waters.
- ⁴ **The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**
- ⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars,
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ The Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ **The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.**
- ⁸ The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁹ The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as Ruler forever.
- ¹¹ **May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

Acts 8: 14-17

¹⁴ Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, ¹⁵ who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

St. Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

¹⁵ Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not, ¹⁶ John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²² And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well pleased."

The Baptismal Covenant IV – Congregational Reaffirmation

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through confirmation, and through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church.

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? **I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world? **I will.**

Apostle Creed and Gloria Patri

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Eternal Father: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water.

After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of the womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and by this gift of water call to our remembrance the grace declared to us in our baptism. For you have washed away our sins, and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives, and dying and rising with Christ we may share in his final victory.

All praise to you, eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

Remember your baptism and be thankful. **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit work within you that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant with God.

We give thanks for all that God has already given us. As members of the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,
established and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that
you may live in grace and peace.