

## Baptism of the Lord

### Baptism of the Lord/First Sunday after the Epiphany

"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.

I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit" (Mark 1:7-8, NRSV).

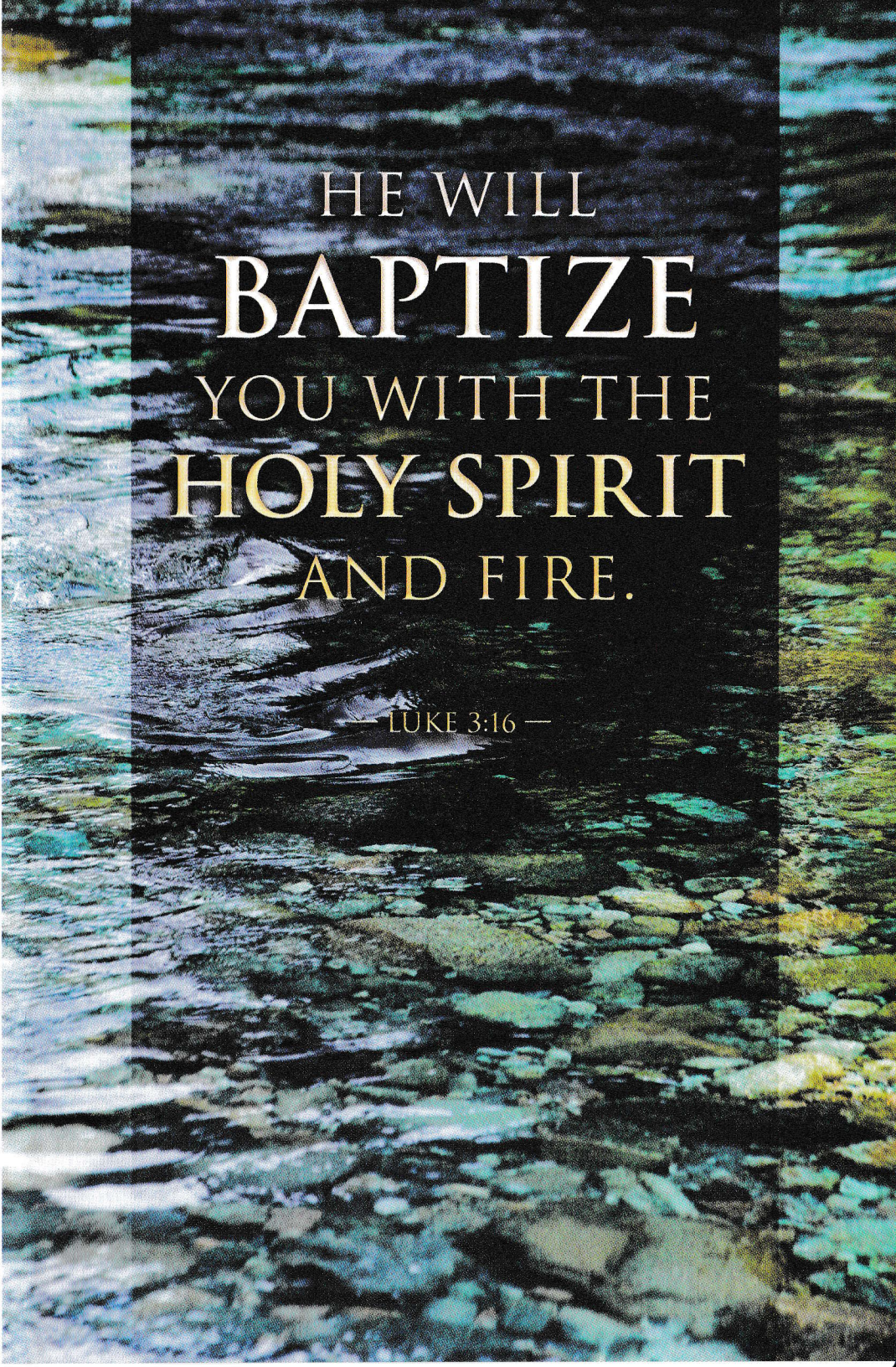
This Sunday marks the beginning, or opening bookend, of the Season after Epiphany. The closing bookend of this season is Transfiguration Sunday. The stories we tell during this season mark out the space between our baptism and glorification, from our call to discipleship to our final appearance with Christ in glory. This season thus recapitulates the whole path of discipleship to Christ, and thus prepares the church for its Lenten calling to walk alongside those preparing for baptism so they can learn this way with us and from the Holy Spirit through us.

<http://www.gbod.org/worship/lectionary-calendar/baptism-of-the-lord-first-sunday-after-the-epiphany>

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Internet broadcast worship service is available at  
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HE WILL  
BAPTIZE  
YOU WITH THE  
HOLY SPIRIT  
AND FIRE.

LUKE 3:16 —



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Our Worship on January 10, 2016  
Worship Leader: Robert Abrams

Welcome! When we gather to worship Almighty God, we are letting the sunshine of His Love flow into our hearts. Jesus brings light in the darkness, hope to our discouragement, and a new vision of the spiritual dimension surrounding us.

We invite you to remain after Worship and enjoy some refreshments and friendly conversation.

### PRAISING GOD TOGETHER

Announcements – *Please sign and pass the red friendship books.*

Opening Devotion and Prayer

Singing Praises to Jesus

Greeting Each Other and Welcoming Our Guests

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading: Luke 16:1-15

Pg. 727

Message by Pastor Ken Gardner: "Passion & Gifts."

### POWER FOR MINISTRY

Offering Our Gifts to God

Doxology: *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

Closing Song: "Jesus is Alive!"

Prayer of Blessing on Everyone

### WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

TODAY: If you are thinking of joining a bible study this year, now is the time to join the **Discipleship for Busy People**. The new session starts on Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30.

2015 Tithing statements are available -- see Susan Abrams.

### TUESDAY:

9:00 AM – Prayers & Squares

6:30 PM – Women's Bible Study

7:00 PM – Men's Bible Study

### WEDNESDAY:

9:30 AM – **Discipleship for Busy People** – Session 12

7:00 PM – Church Council Meeting

Palmdale UMC – 5:00 PM [2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of the month]

Messy Church, an intergenerational event with crafts, games, songs, storytelling, and dinner, 39055 10th St W, Palmdale, CA 93551.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> - North District Training Event at Northridge UMC

Feb. 18-21 – Thursday – Sunday – Girl's Chrysalis Flight

Feb. 25-28 - Thursday – Sunday – Boy's Chrysalis Flight

April 30<sup>th</sup> - North District Conference

### EXTRAS:

BIRTHDAYS: Carolyn Anderson – Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please contact Pastor Ken Gardner for prayer requests. Call the church office (943-2774) or email [cosumc@gmail.com](mailto:cosumc@gmail.com).

## "Passion & Gifts"

Being a wise, sensible, prudent manager of God's gifts,  
so people get into heaven.

Luke 16:1-15 & Micah 6:6-8

January 10, 2016

### I. THE PASSIONATE MANAGER (vs.1-8)

*"... For the people of this world are more shrewd ... than the people of the Light." (v.8b)*

- ✓ *One day God will ask me to give an account of how I used the resources I had on earth. (v.2)*

*"The master commended the dishonest manager because he acted shrewdly." (v. 8a)*

#### WHAT HE DID RIGHT

\*He looked ahead. (v.3)

\*He planned ahead. (v.4)

\*He acted quickly. (v.6)

### II. TWO LESSONS ABOUT GOD'S GIFTS (vs.9-13)

#### 1. THE PURPOSE OF GIVING

*"I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings." (v.9)*

- ✓ *The greatest use of my money is to invest it in getting people into heaven.*

(see Matt. 6:19-21)

"Do not store up for yourselves **treasures** on earth." – v.19

"Store up for yourselves **treasures** in heaven." – v.20

"For where your **treasure** is, there your heart will be also." – v.21

#### 2. THE PRIORITY OF LOVING

*"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (v.13)*

- ✓ *I must choose what I will love most in life.*

*"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep,  
to gain that which he cannot lose." – Jim Elliott*

#### *What will you do?*

Does God really have first place in my life?

How much am I investing for eternity?