



Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 2025 † 9:00 AM

Welcome to our worship of the living God on this feast of **the Baptism of Our Lord!** Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our own adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters... the rivers... fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

Congregational responses are printed in *indented boldface italics*.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

GATHERING HYMN: "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

ELW 310

*Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise;
Manifested by the star to the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem in Thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.*

*Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana wedding guest in Thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow'r divine, changing water into wine;
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.*

*Manifest in making whole weakened body, fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill:
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.*

*Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, present in Thy holy word;
Grace to imitate Thee now and be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we might become like Thee at Thy great epiphany,
And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM:

Trusting in the word of life God's given us in our Baptism,
we gather in the Name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

We give You thanks, O God, for in the beginning Your Spirit moved over the waters
and by Your Word You created the world, calling forth life in which You took delight.

Through the waters of the flood, You delivered Noah and his family;
through the sea, You led Your people Israel from slavery to freedom;
and at the River Jordan, Your Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of His own death and resurrection,
Your beloved Son has set us free from our slavery to sin and death,
and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life.

By water and the Spirit, You unite us to Him in His saving death
and claim us as Your daughters and sons,
making us heirs of Your promise and servants of all.

We praise You for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all, we praise You for the gift of new life in Christ Jesus.

As we remember our Baptism and rejoice in these waters,
shower us with Your Spirit, and renew our lives with Your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To You be given honor and praise through Christ Jesus our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The congregation is sprinkled with water from the font in remembrance of their Baptism.

*Those joining us from home are invited to dip their fingers in a bowl of water
and make the sign of the cross on their own or others' foreheads as a reminder of their Baptism.*

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Glory to God!"



Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

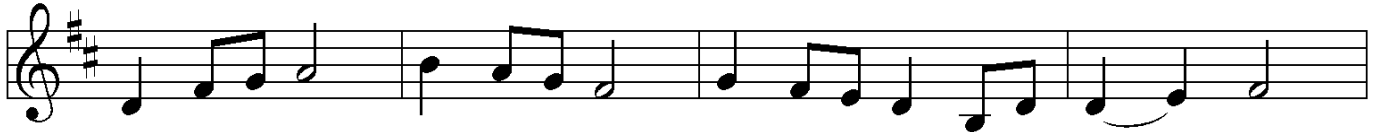




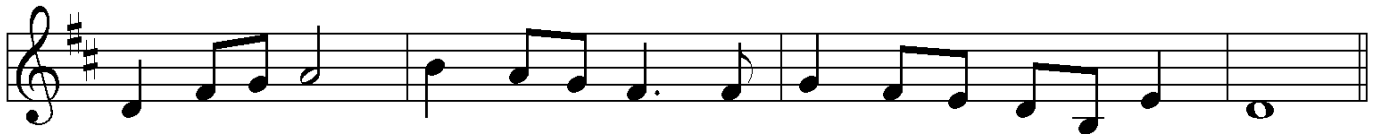
I Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might- y God and Fa- ther, we



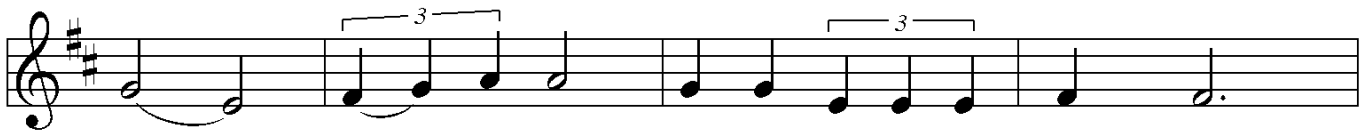
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



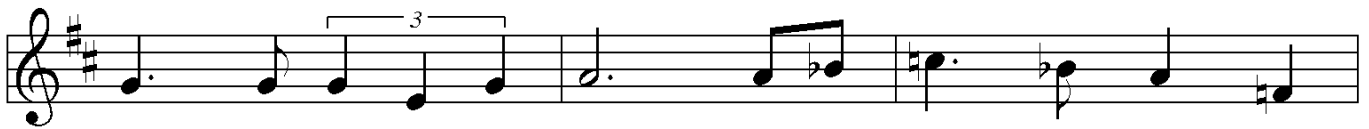
glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



II Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.

I
II For you a- lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir- it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa- ther, A - men.

☪ Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ... are with you all.

And also with you.

Then let's pray: Almighty God, at Jesus' baptism You anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and revealed Him as Your beloved Son.

Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in Your service, that we may rejoice to be called Your children through Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD AND PRAYER

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 43.1-7

NRSVUE

Thus says the LORD who created you, O Jacob, who formed you, O Israel: “Don’t be afraid, for I’ve redeemed you; I’ve called you by name— you’re Mine! ² When you pass through the waters, I’ll be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I’m the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior! I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴ Because you’re precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵ Don’t be afraid, for I’m with you! I’ll bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I’ll gather you; ⁶ I’ll say to the north, “Give them up!” and to the south, “Don’t withhold! Bring My sons from far away and My daughters from the end of the earth— ⁷ everyone who’s called by My name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made.”

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING:

Acts 8.14-17

NRSVUE

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit hadn’t come upon any of them; they’d only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

Thanks be to God!

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

NRSVUE

See ELW 174 for the tune.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the third chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord!

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water— but one who’s more powerful than I is coming; I’m not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He’ll baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he’ll burn with unquenchable fire.”

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You're My Son, the Beloved; with You I'm well pleased."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"

ELW 304



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
give your life for all, to give your life for all.
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

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RENEWAL OF OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT:

Let's confess our faith together in the words of our baptismal creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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 into hell. 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

You've made public profession of your faith.

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

I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

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

I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

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

I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Then let's pray: Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit You've made us Your own.

You forgave us all our sins and brought us to newness of life.

Continue to strengthen us with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in us Your gifts of grace:

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might,

the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the Spirit of joy in Your presence;

through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

And now let's pray for the Church, the world, and all those in need:

Gracious God, we give You thanks for Christ Jesus Your dear Son, in whom You've breached the thresholds of heaven to immerse Yourself in the depths of our human struggle, to embrace us in Your self-giving love, and to baptize us in Your life-giving Spirit, that we might live forever as Your beloved children. Let Your Spirit renew Your people everywhere, that in our common life we may show forth Your loving presence in the world, live out Your justice, and stand with our siblings of every faith community. Merciful God, ***receive our prayer.***

We give You thanks and praise for all the ways in which You've make water the bearer of life and blessing throughout the ages. As we rejoice in Jesus' birth from the waters of Mary's womb and His Baptism in the waters of the Jordan River, help us also rejoice in the glory of Your good creation—the beauty of rivers and streams, glaciers and oceans, lakes and ponds— and stir us to wiser management of the water resources around us, that they may continue to bless Your whole creation and enable all of us to flourish in Your grace. Merciful God, ***receive our prayer.***

Give us a passion to strive for justice for Your people; bless the nations with the power of Your peace, and still the noise of terror, violence, and oppression in every land, that those who are traumatized in body or spirit may see the dawning of Your light amidst the darkness and have their lives and communities renewed. Merciful God, ***receive our prayer.***

Let the healing floodtides of Your Holy Spirit flow in the lives of all who struggle with any kind of sickness, grief, loneliness, or pain, that awash in Your life-giving grace, they may be restored to wholeness and renewed in faith and joy. We especially seek Your mercy for those we remember before You now... Merciful God, ***receive our prayer.***

Though You love us so much that You've given us Your only Son, we still cling to the old life of sin; in so many ways, we've wounded Your love and marred Your image in us. Hear us, O God, as we confess the sin that everyone knows and the sins we fear to name... Have mercy on us, O God; forgive us our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, and transform our lives by Your Holy Spirit, that we may rise to live in the light of Your grace. Merciful God, ***receive our prayer.***

We give You thanks for all our loved ones who've died and now live in the eternal light of Your presence. Grant that we too may find assurance of the same resurrection by our Baptism into Christ's death, and so serve You with courage and infectious joy. Merciful God, ***receive our prayer.***

For into Your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord. ***Amen.***

Listen to God's voice from heaven addressed to you: "You're My own, My beloved!"
Be cleansed, be healed, for in the Name of ✠ Christ Jesus
your sins are forgiven and God's Reign dawns anew upon you.

The peace of the Lord is with you always. ***And also with you.***

Reconciled to God and to one another, we share a sign of Christ's peace.

MEAL

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES, WITH ANTHEM:

"Wade in the Water"

-- Bruce Trinkley

OFFERTORY HYMN: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"



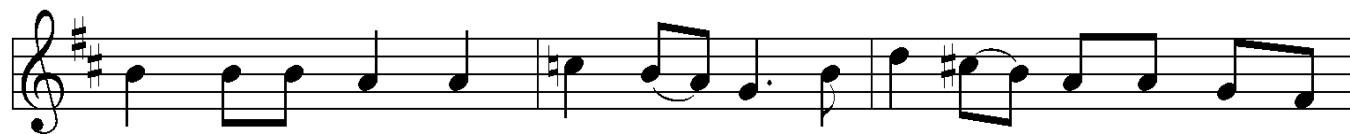
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Gracious God, Your Incarnate Word brings harmony to the earth.

As we offer ourselves and these Your gifts,

prepare us to receive the grace and truth You offer at this table,

and renew in us the song of Your salvation through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord is with you.

Lift up your hearts!

Let's give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord!

It's right to give our thanks and praise!

It's indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always and everywhere give thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ Jesus our Lord!

Sharing our life, He lived among us to reveal Your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to His own brilliant light.

And so with the Church on earth and the whole company of heaven, we praise Your Name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -
san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is My body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me."

Again after supper He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying
“This cup is the new covenant in My blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of Me.”

And so remembering His life and His death, His resurrection and His ascension,
we await His coming in glory. Now pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us,
that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all Your people
in the body of Your Son, Christ Jesus our Lord.

For through Him, with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is Yours, almighty Father, now and forever!

Amen.

Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

***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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever! Amen.***

In Christ’s manger, at Christ’s table, come, see what God makes known for you!

This, this is Christ the King, the Bread of Life from Heaven!

THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Now we share God’s consecrated gifts among God’s consecrated people, knowing that our living Lord Jesus is fully present with us in His Supper, giving Himself to us in bread and wine and forgiving love. Today, we’ll share the sacrament by “stations”. Come forward via the left-hand aisle, take an empty glass from the tray by the front pew [or a glass of grape juice, if you prefer]; receive the bread from the pastor, receive the wine from our communion assistant [or drink the grape juice as s/he says to you, “The blood of Christ, shed for you”], and return to your seat, returning your glass en route. (We’re **not** dipping the wafer into the wine). If you can’t come forward, let the usher know and we’ll bring the Sacrament to you! Those not receiving may come forward for a blessing. Once we’ve all shared in the body and blood of Christ, we continue in blessing and prayer:*

SENDING

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER:

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace.

Amen.

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
 one what God has done. Let all who seek the
 Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
 Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
 lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Let's pray: We thank You, wondrous God, for Jesus Your Son,
 Your Living Word incarnate in these gifts of bread and wine.
 As we've shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share Your love with the world
 through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION:

And now may God our Creator be your protection and your strength;
 may Christ Jesus baptize you with the Holy Spirit;
 may the Spirit be with you to empower you and give you peace;
 and almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" WOV 721

*"Go, My children, with My blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you— you are My own.
In My love's baptismal river, I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing— you are My own."*

*"Go, My children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story; here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."*

*"Go, My children, fed and nourished, closer to Me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you; here My tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."*

*"I, the Lord, with bless and keep you and give you peace;
I, the Lord, will smile upon you and give you peace.
I, the Lord, will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children— I will keep you and give you peace!"*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL:

God has a plan.

We're it!

What's our part in God's plan?

Sharing God's love in joyful service!

Then let's go in peace, live in joy, and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

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