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January 11, 2026 at 9:30am

Baptism of Our Lord In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.



GATHERING

Prelude

To Jordan Came the Christ (see last page)

D. Buxtehude

Welcome

Stand

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. *Water is poured into the font.*

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 into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as 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 Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

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

Gathering Hymn 305

When Jesus Came to Jordan



When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,
He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,
Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make;

he did not come for pardon but as the Sin-less One.
for us and our salvation to die upon the cross.
this very day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond-age break.

He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,
So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:

to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Hymn of Praise sung by the choir

Russian Orthodox chant

*When you, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.
For the voice of the Father bore witness unto you, calling you the beloved Son.
And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed his word as sure and steadfast.
O Christ, our God, who has appeared and enlightened the world, glory be to you.*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sit

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

A reading from Isaiah. ¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ² He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵ Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29

Tune: HYFRYDOL

**All on earth and all in heaven, raise to God a song on high;
strength unmeasured, love unbounded, God alone we glorify.**

**At God's voice the clouds assemble, thunder roars and torrents fall;
Earth shall quake before God's presence, mountains tremble at God's call.**

**Trees shall bow in awe and wonder, bend their branches to the ground;
from God's lips one word in anger wreaks destruction all around.**

**But the Word which sets in motion such travails can make them cease;
That same voice which tumult beckons on a gentler breath speaks peace.**

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

A reading from Acts. ³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Choir sings the Acclamation and all repeat it; Choir sings the Verse.



Al - - le - - lu - - ia, al - - le - - lu - - ia!

A voice from heaven said, "This is my son, | the Beloved, with whom I | am well pleased." (Matt 3:17)

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."



The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand when the hymn introduction begins.

Hymn of the Day ACS 916

Down Galilee's Slow Roadways



1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on
2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;
3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.

from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.
it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.
We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.

He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave.
The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:
But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.

but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.
"You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."
"You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Apostles' Creed With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Sit or kneel

Prayers of Intercession

A: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. *A brief silence.*

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

Stand

Peace The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

Sit

Setting the Table + Presentation of Gifts

*Our brother who for us drew breath, was born for us bore pain and death.
He was baptized on Jordan's banks: the Son of God deserves our thanks.*

*Satan is of no concern. From his temptings let us turn.
Every child who is baptized, lives secure in Jesus Christ.
He the hero, we the saved: may his name be ever praised!*

*Once washed, we live forever more: this holy font is heaven's door!
Marked with the sign of Jesus' cross, we face with hope life's every loss.*

*Bright dove, descend to sanctify your nestlings who on you rely.
So may you bless us, every child, through life preserve us, undefiled.*

Text: Madeline Forell Marshall

Stand

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

power and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

Invitation to Communion

Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask your server.

Red wine and white grape juice are available in each tray.



Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn 450

I Bind unto Myself Today

1 I bind un - to my - self to - day the strong name
 of the Trin - i - ty by in - vo - ca - tion
 of the same, the Three in One and One in Three.

2 I bind this day to me for - ev - er, by pow'r of
 3 I bind un - to my - self to - day . . . the vir - tues
 faith, Christ's in - car - na - tion, his bap - tism in the
 of the star - lit heav - en, the glo - rious sun's life -

Jor - dan Riv - er, his cross of death for my sal - va - tion, his
 giv - ing ray, . . . the white - ness of the moon at e - ven, the

burst - ing from the spic - ed tomb, his rid - ing
 flash - ing of the light - ning free, the whirl - ing

up the heav'n - ly way, his com - ing at the
 wind's tem - pes - tuous shocks, the sta - ble earth, the

day of doom, I bind un - to my - self to - day.
 deep salt sea, a - round the old e - ter - nal rocks.

4 Christ be with me, Christ with-in me, Christ be-hind me, Christ be-fore me,
 Christ be-neath me, Christ a-bove me, Christ in qui - et, Christ in dan - ger,
 Christ be-side me, Christ to win me, Christ to com - fort and re-store me,
 Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and strang-er.

5 I bind un - to my - self the name, the strong name of the
 Trin - i - ty by in - vo - ca - tion of the same, the

Three in One and One in Three, of whom all na - ture has cre -
 a - tion, e - ter - nal Fa - ther, Spir - it, Word. Praise to the

Lord of my sal - va-tion; sal - va - tion is of Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. Patrick, 372-466; para. Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895
 Music: ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE, sts. 1-3, 5: Irish melody. DEIRDRE, st. 4: Irish melody

Table Blessing and Communion Prayer

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

A: Let us pray. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn 304

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

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 - obeyed 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

Sit

Announcements

Dismissal Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

Paul Manz

*Everyone is invited to enjoy light refreshments and conversation
in the fellowship hall following worship.*

Commemorations this Week

Thursday, January 15 **Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968** An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

Sat., January 17 **Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356** One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.

Saturday, January 17 **Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346** Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.

Psalm hymn from The Psalter for Christian Worship (Witherspoon Press, 2010). © Michael Morgan. Used by permission. Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com. © 2026 Augsburg Fortress All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #27433 and print/podcast license OneLicense.net A-722538. The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, copyright © 2021 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Resistance Movements

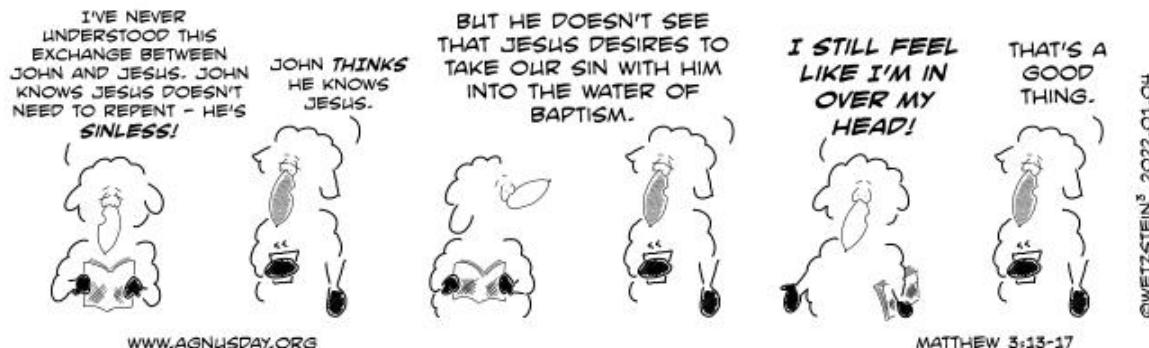
Herod plotting to kill. John at the riverbank. Peter in Jerusalem. Judas at the table. Thomas behind closed doors. Nicodemus in the night. Family at home. Crowds in the streets. Quite a collection, but merely a sampling of a much longer list. There are plenty in the pages of the scriptures, and in the circles of our daily rounds: they—we—who are wannabe followers and wannabe saboteurs, the well-meaning and the conspiratorial, neighbors we like, others we refuse to trust, family we put up with (or don't), coworkers we admire, mentors we respect, activists we fear, leaders we oppose. A lengthy list indeed. And this is what is shared among such a collection of souls: people standing in the way of, objecting to, arguing against Jesus. Road blockers.

Mystery floats in and over the murky baptismal ripples of the Jordan River. To this day, thousands throng to wade in those waters to receive, to remember, to renew, to celebrate baptism. Jesus came there too and was met by his cousin, the famous, wild, wandering baptizer, who tried to stop him. Make of John's protest what you will (humility, confusion, disagreement, panic, pride?), his inclination was to prevent Jesus' public repentance, Jesus' plain-to-be-seen-and-heard turning away from the expectations of the world order toward the divine imagination of God.

It is not always (more than likely rarely, though at times it surely is) evil intention that is the seed that grows to oppose God's invocation to take delight in merciful justice and breathe the spirit of righteousness. We clash, as John the Baptizer clashed (how often?), with heaven's hopes and blessings for all that God created in goodness, even as we are unmindful of our own dissent.

It is for us, in our moments and ways of objecting, that God—ever mindful of us—parts heaven's clouds, that we might see and hear the way of God's beloved Son.

The comic strip *Agnus Day* is a lectionary-based comic strip. Each week, Rick (the one with the dark nose) and Ted discuss one of the assigned readings from the Common Lectionary. Their conversation drives at a point and sometimes sparks a laugh. *Agnus Day* is the creation of Pastor James Wetzstein, a Lutheran pastor who serves as one of the campus pastors at Valparaiso University. *Agnus Day* appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org.



To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord

Martin Luther's hymn for the Baptism of Our Lord

1. To Jor - dan came the Christ, our Lord, To do his Fa - ther's plea - sure;
2. These truths on Jor - dan's banks were shown By might - y word and won - der.
3. Oh, hear and mark the mes - sage well, For God him - self has spo - ken.
4. All that the mor - tal eye be - holds Is wat - er as we pour it.
5. To his dis - ci - ples spoke the Lord, "Go out to ev' - ry na - tion

Bap - tized by John, the Fa - ther's Word Was giv - en us to trea - sure.
The Fa - ther's voice from heav'n came down, Which we do well to pon - der:
Let faith, not doubt, a - mong us dwell And so re - ceive this to - ken.
Be - fore the eye of faith un - folds The pow'r of Je - sus' mer - it.
And bring to them the liv - ing word And this my in - vi - ta - tion:

This heav'n - ly wash-ing now shall be A cleans-ing from trans-gres - sion
"This man is my be - lov - ed Son, In whom my heart has plea - sure.
Our Lord here with his Word en - dows Pure wa - ter, free - ly flow - ing.
For here it sees his pre - cious blood To all our ills bring heal - ing,
Let ev' - ry - one a - ban - don sin And come in true con - tri - tion

And, by his blood and ag - o - ny, Re - lease from death's op - pres - sion.
Him you must hear, and him a - lone, And trust in full - est mea - sure
God's Ho - ly Spir - it here a - vows Our kin - ship, while be - stow - ing
The won - ders of that crim - son flood The love of God re - veal - ing.
To be bap - tized and there - by win Full par - don and re - mis - sion

A new life now a - waits____ us.
The word that he has spo - - - ken."
The bap - tism of his bless - - - ing.
As - sur - - ing his own par - - - don.
And heav'n - ly bliss in - her - - - it."

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546
Music: J. Walther, Geistliche Gesangbüchlein, 1524

CHRIST, UNSER HERR
87 87 87 877

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)