

Epiphanytide

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE ASCENSION

MAKING CHRIST KNOWN
Truth, Beauty, Goodness

ABOUT TODAY'S THEME – THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

In His Baptism, Jesus Takes His Place with Sinners

Our Lord Jesus is baptized “to fulfill all righteousness” (Matt. 3:13–17). He partakes of a baptism for sinners in order that He might be our substitute and bear the judgment we deserve. In the water, Jesus trades places with us. Our sin becomes His sin. His righteousness becomes our righteousness. Our glory, therefore, is in “Christ Jesus, who became to us . . . righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Cor. 1:26–31). Jesus is the “chosen” One sent from the Father to release us from the prison house of sin and death (Is. 42:1–7). Baptized into Christ, we also become the chosen ones, beloved of the Father. We cross the Jordan with Jesus (Joshua 3) through death into the promised land of new life with God.

About image on front cover: “Baptism of Christ” (2003) by Vladimir Zagitov (1978 -).

JANUARY 9, 2022 SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.
DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING THREE



PRELUDE

Christ Unser Herr zum Jordan kam

Dietrich Buxtehude

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand and face the processional cross.

Lutheran Service Book 404

“Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered”

1 Je - sus, once with sin - ners num - bered, Had no blem - ish
2 John con - fessed Him as the Sav - ior— “Look, the sin - less
3 This the bap - tism that our Sav - ior Great - ly longed to
4 Je - sus, once with sin - ners num - bered, Full o - be - dience

of His own; In the wa - ters of the Jor - dan
Lamb of God!” Yet he dared not loose the san - dals
un - der - go; This the crim - son cleans - ing need - ed
was Your path; You, by death, have con - se - crat - ed

His true worth and work were shown: Heav - en o - pened
Of the One God’s love had shod. Oh, how fair the
So the world God’s love might know; This the mis - sion
Wa - ter in this sav - ing bath: Dy - ing to the

and the Spir - it There de - scend - ed like a
feet of Je - sus, Bring - ing news of peace to
of Mes - si - ah As He stepped from Jor - dan’s
sin of Ad - am, Ris - ing to a life of

dove, As the Fa - ther’s voice re - sound - ed,
us, Christ, the her - ald of sal - va - tion,
stream, He, the cho - sen and a - noint - ed
grace; We are count - ed with the righ - teous,

“Hear My Son, the One I love.”
Preach - ing mer - cy from the cross:
Son of God, sent to re - deem.
O - ver us the cross You trace.

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." And the apostle Peter has written, "Baptism now saves you."

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Matthew 28:18b-19; Mark 16:16a; 1 Peter 3:21

P Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin. We pray that You would behold us all according to Your boundless mercy and bless us with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in us, which has been inherited from Adam and which we ourselves have committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that we be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that with all believers in Your promise, we would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

"Lord God, Holy Spirit, You are the true and constant support in every need, a Spirit of truth and promise, God's finger, the water of life, a heavenly fire, which warms cold hearts and ignites them with true love for God. You have revealed Yourself to the apostles with wonderful gifts in a powerful wind and fiery tongues. We ask You now therefore to come into our hearts, to strengthen and gladden our ignorant consciences. Sanctify us with Your blessing and be unto us the holy assurance of our redemption and our salvation. Amen."

J. K. Wilhelm Loehe (1808 - 1872)

- P** Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?
- C** Yes, I do.
- P** Do you renounce the devil?
- C** Yes, I renounce him.
- P** Do you renounce all his works?
- C** Yes, I renounce them.
- P** Do you renounce all his ways?
- C** Yes, I renounce them.
- P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?
- C** Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
- P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?
- C** Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
- C** Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
- P** Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.
- C** Amen.
- P** Peace ✠ be with you.
- C** Amen.

“Jesus goes up out of the water . . . for with Himself He carries up the world . . . and sees heaven opened, which Adam had shut against himself and all his posterity, as the gates of Paradise by the flaming sword. And the Spirit bears witness to His Godhead, for He descends upon one that is like Him. So also does the voice from heaven, witness to His Godhead. And the Spirit comes like a dove, for He honors the body of Jesus, for this also was God through its union with God, so the Spirit is also seen in a bodily form.”

Gregory of Nazianzus (329 - 390)

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 89:1, 26-28; antiphon: Liturgical Text; Psalm 89:20



- L** Behold the Lord, the rul- | er, has come,*
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in his hand.
I have found David, my | servant;*
with my holy oil I have a- | nointed him.
- L** I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, for- | ever;*
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all gener- | ations.
- C** He shall cry to me, "You are my | Father,*
my God, and the Rock of my sal- | vation."
- L** And I will make him the | firstborn,*
the highest of the kings | of the earth.
- C** My steadfast love I will keep for him for- | ever,*
and my covenant I will stand | firm for him.



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

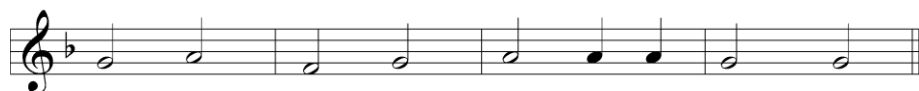
- L** Behold the Lord, the rul- | er, has come,*
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in his hand.
I have found David, my | servant;*
with my holy oil I have a- | nointed him.

KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ~ *Glory to God in the Highest*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo and meter are indicated by a 'P' (Piano) and a common time signature 'C'. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words in bold. The score consists of 12 staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are: Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

P Glory be to God on high: **G** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sitting

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 42:1-7

A The Old Testament Reading for The Baptism of Our Lord is from Isaiah, chapter 42.

A ¹ Behold 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 aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴ He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.
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 on it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶ "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for 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."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 72:18-19



- L** Blessèd be the LORD, the God of | Israel,*
who alone does | wondrous things.
- C** Blessèd be his glorious name for- | ever;*
may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and | Amen!

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

- A** The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter one.
- A** ²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers:
not many of you were wise according
to worldly standards, not many were
powerful, not many were of noble
birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish
in the world to shame the wise; God
chose what is weak in the world to
shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is
low and despised in the world, even
things that are not, to bring to nothing
things that are, ²⁹ so that no human
being might boast in the presence of
God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in
Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom
from God, righteousness and
sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so
that, as it is written, "Let the one who
boasts, boast in the Lord."
- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Standing

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Psalm 143:10



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

- L** Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

P ¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, 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 thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

CATECHETICAL RECITATION

The Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer

P What is the Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer?

C Thy kingdom come.

P What does this mean?

C The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

P How does God's kingdom come?

C God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

Sitting

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lutheran Service Book 406

"To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord"

1 To Jor - dan came the Christ, our Lord, To do His
 2 O hear and mark the mes - sage well, For God Him -
 3 These truths on Jor - dan's banks were shown By might - y
 4 There stood the Son of God in love, His grace to

Fa - ther's plea - sure; Bap - tized by John, the Fa - ther's Word
 self has spo - ken. Let faith, not doubt, a - mong us dwell
 word and won - der. The Fa - ther's voice from heav'n came down,
 us ex - tend - ing; The Ho - ly Spir - it like a dove

Was giv - en us to trea - sure. This heav'n - ly wash - ing
 And so re - ceive this to - ken. Our Lord here with His
 Which we do well to pon - der; "This man is My be -
 Up - on the scene de - scend - ing; The tri - une God as -

now shall be A cleans - ing from trans - gres - sion
 Word en - dows Pure wa - ter, free - ly flow - ing.
 lov - ed Son, In whom My heart has plea - sure.
 sur - ing us, With prom - is - es com - pel - ling,

And by His blood and ag - o - ny Re - lease from death's
 God's Ho - ly Spir - it here a - vows Our kin - ship while
 Him you must hear, and Him a - lone, And trust in full -
 That in our Bap - tism He will thus A - mong us find

op - pres - sion. A new life now a - waits us.
 be - stow - ing The Bap - tism of His bless - ing.
 est mea - sure The word that He has spo - ken."
 a dwell - ing To com - fort and sus - tain us.

5 To His disciples spoke the Lord,
 "Go out to ev'ry nation,
 And bring to them the living Word
 And this My invitation:
 Let ev'ryone abandon sin
 And come in true contrition
 To be baptized and thereby win
 Full pardon and remission
 And heav'nly bliss inherit."

6 But woe to those who cast aside
 This grace so freely given;
 They shall in sin and shame abide
 And to despair be driven.
 For born in sin, their works must fail,
 Their striving saves them never;
 Their pious acts do not avail,
 And they are lost forever,
 Eternal death their portion.

Continued on next page . . .

- 7 All that the mortal eye beholds
Is water as we pour it.
Before the eye of faith unfolds
The pow'r of Jesus' merit.
For here it sees the crimson flood
To all our ills bring healing;
The wonders of His precious blood
The love of God revealing,
Assuring His own pardon.

SERMON

Standing

OFFERTORY

Psalms 51:10-12



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sitting

OFFERING

Adoro te devote

Arranged for violin and organ by Charles Callahan

Standing

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P Heavenly Father, preserve Your Church. By Your mercies, lead us to present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to You, for the good of our neighbors and in faith toward You. Send faithful pastors to preach Your Gospel among us and help all Christians to think with sober judgment, not considering themselves more highly than others, but each living and serving according to the measure of faith assigned by God. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, we praise You for retaining among us Your Holy Word and Sacraments. Continue to raise up faithful stewards of Your mysteries, that repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Christ's name would be proclaimed in our midst and throughout all the world. Prepare all Your baptized children to be faithful confessors of the hope that is in them. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, Your Son diligently heard the Word of God and grew in wisdom and stature, submissive to His earthly parents and always about Your business and in Your house. Keep the families of Your Church abiding in Your Word, eager to be found among Your Word and Sacraments and always treasuring Your divine wisdom and favor. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, graciously uphold our president and those in high positions of authority. Guard them from every evil. Keep them from using their power for selfish gain, that they would serve for the common welfare of all. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, give comfort and relief to those who are sick, depressed, tired, confused or in any need [*especially* _____]. Watch over all expectant mothers and their children, [*especially* _____] that they may have a safe delivery and be brought also to the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism and Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, Your Son has won redemption through His blood, granting the forgiveness of our trespasses. So now according to the riches of Your grace, receive those who come to Your blessed Sacrament this day. Grant worthy repentance and confident faith to all who commune, united in a sincere confession of the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, in mercy You have established the Christian home among us. We implore You, rule and direct our hearts to be good examples to children and those subject to us, that we may not offend them by word or deed but faithfully teach them to love Your Church and hear Your blessed Word. Give them Your Spirit and grace, that this seed may bring forth good fruit and our homelife may advance Your glory, honor and praise as well as our own improvement and welfare, giving offense to no one; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for at His Baptism Your voice from heaven revealed Him as Your beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him, confirming Him to be the Christ. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bles - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25



P Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,



and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the



dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My [†] bod - y, which is giv-en for you.



This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so



He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it



to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in



My [†] blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.



This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29



C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sitting

About participation in the Lord's Supper:

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. [Those coming to the altar for a blessing rather than Holy Communion are asked to cross their arms over their chest.]

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

(Above is the "Model Communion Card Statement" from Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper, a 1983 report by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.)

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Lutheran Service Book 590

"Baptized Into Your Name Most Holy"



1 Bap-tized in - to Your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther, Son, and
2 My lov - ing Fa - ther, here You take me To be hence-forth Your
3 My faith - ful God, You fail me nev - er; Your prom - ise sure - ly
4 All that I am and love most dear - ly— Re - ceive it all, O



Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and low - ly,
child and heir. My faith - ful Sav - ior, here You make me
will en - dure. O cast me not a - way for - ev - er
Lord, from me. Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly;



A - mong Your saints, Your cho - sen host. Bur - ied with Christ and
The fruit of all Your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it,
If words and deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I
Help me Your faith - ful child to be! Let noth - ing that I




dead to sin, Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.
com - fort me When threat - ning clouds a - round I see.
come de - filed; For - give, lift up, re - store Your child.
am or own Serve an - y will but Yours a - lone.

"[W]e do not offer Christ as a sacrifice, but . . . Christ offers us. And in this way it is permissible, yes, profitable, to call the mass a sacrifice; not on its own account, but because we offer ourselves as a sacrifice along with Christ. That is, we lay ourselves on Christ by a firm faith in his testament and do not otherwise appear before God with our prayer, praise, and sacrifice except through Christ and his mediation. Nor do we doubt that Christ is our priest or minister in heaven before God. Such faith, truly, brings it to pass that Christ takes up our cause, presents us and our prayer and praise, and also offers himself for us in heaven. If the mass were so understood and for this reason called a sacrifice, it would be well. Not that we offer the Sacrament, but that by our praise, prayer, and sacrifice we move him and give him occasion to offer himself for us in heaven and ourselves with him. It is as if I were to say, I had brought a king's son to his father as an offering, when actually I had done no more than induce that son to present my need and petition to the king and made the son my mediator."

Martin Luther

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

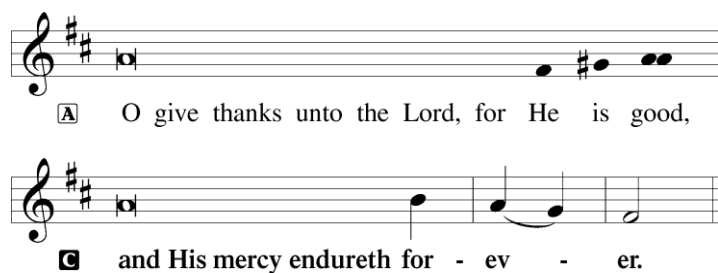
Luke 2:29-32



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
 cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A-men.

THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- P** Let us pray.
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

2 Timothy 4:22, Psalm 103:1

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make

His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C A-men, a-men, a - men.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lutheran Service Book 917

"Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to Thy dear name we raise
2 Grant us Thy peace up - on our home - ward way;
3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
4 Grant us Thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,



With one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
With Thee be - gan, with Thee shall end, the day,
Turn Thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.
Our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife;



Once more we bless Thee ere our wor - ship cease,
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
From harm and dan - ger keep Thy chil - dren free;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait Thy word of peace.
That in this house have called up - on Thy name.
For dark and light are both a - like to Thee.
Call us, O Lord, to Thine e - ter - nal peace.

POSTLUDE

Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, all zugleich

Johann Sebastian Bach

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

J.P. Morr, *Head Elder*

Edie Durden, *Acolyte*

Organist

Debbie Dickensheets, *Director of Music*

Violinist

Brianna Darden

Altar Guild

Anne Bigelow/Whitney Worthington

Usher(s)

Brian Beckman/Richard Drachenberg

Greeter(s)

The Schoellen family

Fellowship Host(s)

Nancy Grossberg

SERVING NEXT WEEK

Presiding Minister

Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

J.P. Morr, *Head Elder*

Emilie Schoellen, *Acolyte*

Organist

Debbie Dickensheets, *Director of Music*

Altar Guild

Jill Drachenberg/Jeni Miller

Usher(s)

Tom Lawton/Mark Saldaña

Greeter(s)

TBD

Fellowship Host(s)

The Schoellen family

Making Christ Known

CALENDAR		
Sunday 1/9	The Baptism of Our Lord Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>Lutheranism 101</i> Divine Service with Holy Communion Fellowship Hour Open Arms Board Meeting	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 – 9:40 AM 9:00 – 9:40 AM 10:00 AM Following worship Following fellowship
Monday 1/10	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Tuesday 1/11	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 1/12	Open Arms LCDC Church Office Open Arms LCDC Chapel	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 10:00 AM
Thursday 1/13	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 1/14	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 1/15	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 1/16	Second Sunday after the Epiphany Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>Lutheranism 101</i> Divine Service with Holy Communion Fellowship Hour Church Board Meeting	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 – 9:40 AM 9:00 – 9:40 AM 10:00 AM Following worship Following fellowship



✝ **Adult Bible Study: *Lutheranism 101***

Theme: What makes the Lutheran confession of faith unique? Why is Lutheran worship different than at the church next door? Does it have to be confusing? If you're a lifelong Lutheran looking to dig deeper, new to Lutheranism and want answers, or are just curious about the Lutheran church—this book is for you! Conversational and fun to flip through, this reference guide helps you easily get to know theology basics in a way that won't make your brain hurt.

Inside this second edition, sections on topics such as:

- Marriage ("What God Has Joined Together")
- Justification ("All that Jesus Did As Our Savior")
- Prayer
- The works of unbelievers
- Early Lutheranism
- End times predictions

Day & Time: Sundays at 9:00 A.M.

Location: Church fellowship hall

✝ **Book Club: *The Picture of Dorian Gray***

Theme: From the back cover: *"In true Faustian tradition Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray tells the tale of a young man who sells his soul to the devil in return for youthful immortality, only to discover that the 'devil's bargain' is no bargain at all. 'What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?' When Dorian Gray is asked this question he knows the answer. He has learned his lesson the hard way and has destroyed the lives of others into the bargain. The moral is inescapable, making The Picture of Dorian Gray more than merely a classic of Victorian literature. It is a classic of Christian literature also."*

Day & Time: Sunday, January 23 at 3:30 PM

Location: Pastor Miller's home (see Church Directory)



✦ 1-1-1 Mission Campaign

Theme: 1-1-1 is a campaign of the English District to raise \$1/per person/per week. That means that by giving \$4 each month, just \$52 a year, everyone can give toward the district's mission efforts. Just think what could happen if every person in the English District did this! Right now, those missions are focusing on district ministries on college campuses. Please consider playing a part in this special mission! Dollars may be contributed in the designated 1-1-1 Mission box located in the narthex.

✦ Project Joseph

Theme: God's servant Joseph was given the responsibility of storing up food to provide for his people during the course of a seven-year famine in Egypt. Seeing empty shelves and facing a supply chain crisis, there's the possibility of a shortage in our time. We wish to take care of our brothers and sisters in need at Ascension by keeping a stock of supplies should hard times hit. If you would like to contribute to a congregational food pantry (also includes toiletries and household items), you may drop off your donations in the church office. Should items go unused, all will be donated to Stepping Stone Mission before the expiration date. If you would like to volunteer the management of this food pantry, or would like to learn more about how Thrivent Financial will grant their members gift cards toward such a project, please see the Evangelism Chair, Jason Schoellen, for more details: jasonschoellen@comcast.net.

LIFTING UP ONE ANOTHER IN PRAYER

Birthdays

✝ None this week

Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries)

✝ Edie Durden, 1/13

✝ Tracy Woolery, 1/15

Wedding Anniversaries

✝ None this week

Membership Anniversaries

✝ None this week

In Need

Recent Requests

For persecuted Christians:

✝ Iraq

For comfort, health, and recovery:

✝ Unborn daughter of Isaac & Bekah Beckman

✝ Mary Huntoon (sister of Anne Bigelow)

✝ Barbara Stanford (friend of Ruth Henry)

✝ Unborn daughter of Evan and Rebekah Woolery (granddaughter of the Woolerys)

Ongoing Requests

For family and friends of the congregation:

✝ Hannibal (Hank) Durden

✝ Mary Greene (neighbor of Ruth Henry)

✝ Ruth Henry

✝ Bob & Sue Husby (parents of Whitney Worthington)

✝ Jimmy Murray (friend of Adrian Popescu)

✝ Michael Ocepek (brother-in-law of Eileen Buehl)

✝ Heidi Schnakenberg (niece of Clara Smith)

✝ Bill Vester

For the leaders of Church and state:

✝ Director Barbara Collins-Hopkins & Open Arms Board

✝ English District Bishop Jamison Hardy & all district officials

✝ LCMS President Matthew Harrison & all synodical officials

✝ Pastor David Miller & Church Board of Lutheran Church of the Ascension

✝ Rev. Dr. Jonathan & Dcs. Cheryl Naumann, missionaries to Dominican Republic

✝ President Joseph Biden & all U.S. government officials



THE LUTHERAN
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