



House of Prayer Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 7, 2024

Baptism of our Lord, Year B

(The “+” insignia indicates where the congregation should stand)

Prelude *Chorale Prelude: "Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern"*

Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome and Gathering

Announcements

Ringing of the Bell *(please remain seated)*



+Gathering Hymn: *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!* (vv. 1, 3 &4)

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

+Greeting

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

+Call to Worship

L: In God's house, we can be joyful.

C: We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.

L: In God's house, we can be weary.

C: We can be anxious. We can be grieving.

L: In God's house, we can be honest—

C: inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful, connected or curious, and everything in between.

L: This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

C: Let us worship our loving God.

+Call to Confession & Assurance of Forgiveness

L: Friends in Christ, we meet at the waters of Baptism, where the Gospel of Luke tells us that the sky opened and the voice of God was heard saying "You are my beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

With that same joy and passion God has claimed each of us in the forgiving waters of Baptism. So trusting that Good News we share everything with our loving God who is eager to comfort us in our struggles and ease our burdens:

L: Loving God,

C: From the very beginning, you breathed life into us and called us good. However, somewhere along the way we replaced "good" with "not enough." Somewhere along the way we turned the volume up on that phrase and began to doubt our own self-worth. Forgive us, for this is not what you have taught us. When the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved. Show us how to return to that truth. Show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in Your good news. Amen.

L: Family of faith, God's grace and understanding is deeper and wider than we can possibly imagine. Speak these words of grace that you might experience them in your heart:

C: Our story begins with belovedness. Even when we lose our way, even if we stumble and fall, God never stops breaking through the lies to claim us.

We are known. We are forgiven. We are beloved. Thanks be to God! Amen.

+Prayer of the Day

L: Beloved God,

C: in our baptism you claim us as your children and tell us we are beloved. Help us to break through the weariness of our lives to know that truth is more powerful than any burden we carry, object that hinders, or false narrative we believe. We claim the power of your love in the grace of Jesus, our Saviour. Amen.

You may be seated

Word

First Reading: Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ² He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³ Then he said, “Into what, then, were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴ Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied, ⁷ altogether there were about twelve of them.

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 over the waters;

the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty 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 **He 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 king forever.**

¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

L: Word of God, Word of Life: **C: Thanks be to God!**

+Gospel Acclamation: ELW 288 (v. 3)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

+Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

L: The Gospel according to Mark the first chapter. **C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. ¹¹And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

L: The Good News of God. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

You may be seated

**Sermon: How Does a Weary World Rejoice?
We Trust our Belovedness**

Hymn: ELW 448 *This is the Spirit's Entry Now*

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now



1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.
that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

Text: Thomas E. Herbranson, b. 1933

Music: LAND OF REST, North American traditional

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+Apostle's Creed

**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.**

You may be seated

Prayers of Intercession:

L: Merciful God, **C:** **Receive our Prayer.**

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

You are invited to share the peace with those around you as you feel comfortable.

Meal

Offering *Prelude for Epiphany*

Maurice Duruflé

Offering Prayer

L: Lord God, every gift comes from you. May your blessings of wealth and security lead us not to arrogant pride but to humble gratitude. May our gratitude for your gifts lead us not to clutch them tightly, but to open our hands and freely share them with love. May all that we offer be gifts that connect us to one another for the sake of Jesus,

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

Preface

L: 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...we **stand** to praise your name and join their unending hymn... *(please stand)*

+Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,', 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.', 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes', and 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

+Words of Institution

+Lord's Prayer

**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.**

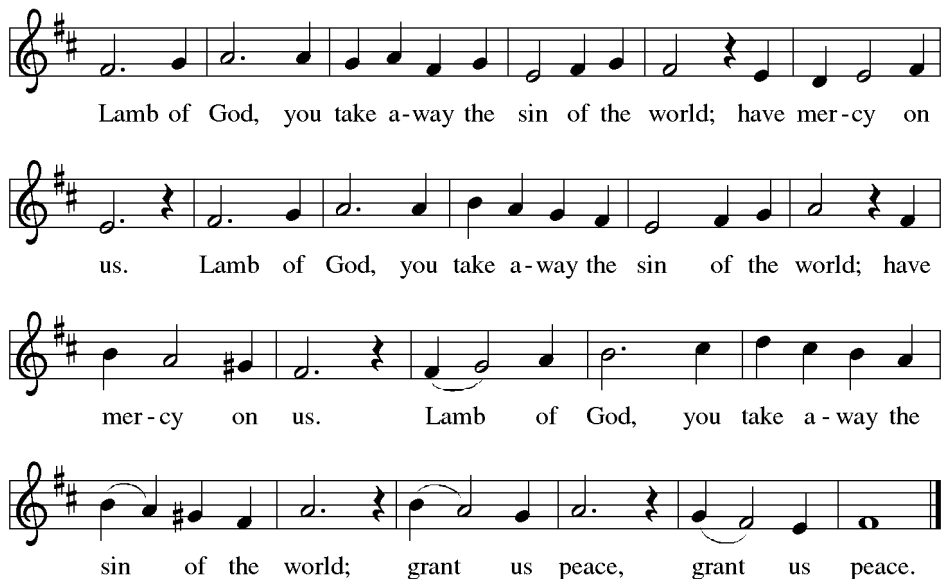
**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

+Invitation to Communion

L: In this meal, we are connected to God's grace and mercy. Come, take your place at the table.

(You may be seated)

Communion



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.

Music during Distribution: *Chorale Prelude "Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern"*

Niels Gade

+Prayer after Communion

L: God of wonder, thank you for welcoming us to this table and feeding us with the best of who you are. Strengthened by Christ, lead us into our lives that we might include all and turn the weariness of others into Joy. With grateful hearts we pray.

C: Amen.

Sending

+Blessing

L: As you leave this place, you go into a weary world—so speak tenderly.

Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection.

Hold onto hope. And remember that Christ took on flesh for you.

You are God's beloved.

So go rejoicing. The world needs it.


C: Amen.




+Hymn: ACS 492 Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

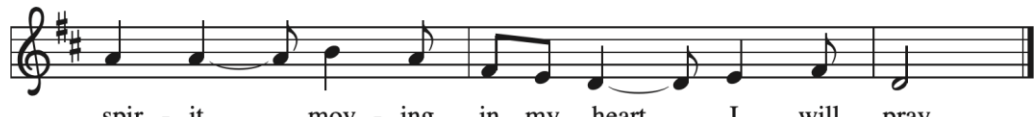
Refrain



Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing




in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the



spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,
2 . . All a - round me looked so fine,
3 . . Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,



Refrain

out of his mouth came fire and smoke.
asked my Lord if all was mine.
chills the bod - y but not the soul.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: PENTECOST, African American spiritual; arr. Melva W. Costen, b. 1933

Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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+Ringing of the Bell

+Dismissal

L: Go in peace, seeking Christ in one another,

C: We will, by the grace of God.

Postlude Chorale Prelude "Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern"

Max Drischner

Worship Participants

Presider/Preacher:	Pastor Eric Luedtke
Musicians:	Roselyn Hanson Weber, Director of Liturgical Worship
Organist	Tim Buendorf
Special Music:	Tim Buendorf, Organ
Lector/Intercessor:	Jean Robbins
Communion Servers:	Pastor Eric, Charlie Robbins, Cathy and Roger Shromoff
Ushers:	Steve and Ann Barnes, Wayne Peterson
AV Engineer:	Ethan Alberg



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For more information about House of Prayer Lutheran Church,
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