

Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 2025

10:15 am

Prelude

Announcements

Introduction

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our 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.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.
Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In ✚ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #423 "Shall We Gather at the River"

1. **Shall we gather at the river, where bright angels feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?**

Refrain: **Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.**

2. **On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.** Refrain
3. **Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.** Refrain
4. **Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.** Refrain

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Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism 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 children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings and Psalm

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

- ¹ But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
- ² When you pass through the waters, I will 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 am 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 are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
- ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
- ⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
- ⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Psalm: Psalm 29

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- ³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;

the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

**5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;**

**6 the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

**7 The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.**

**8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

**9 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"**

**10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

**11 O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.**

Second Reading: Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴ 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 had not come upon any of them; they had 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.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

¹⁵ As 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 is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will 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 will 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 are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW #304

"Christ, When for us you were Baptized"

- 1. Christ, when for us you were baptized , God's spirit on you came, as peaceful as a dove, and yet as urgent as a flame, as urgent as a flame.**
- 2. God called you, "My beloved Son"; you are God's servant true, sent to proclaim the reign of heav'n, God's holy will to do, God's holy will to do.**
- 3. Straight-way and steadfast until death you then obeyed the call to serve with free and willing heart, to give your life for all, to give your life for all.**
- 4. Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord; your cross on us be signed, that likewise in God's service we may perfect freedom find, may perfect freedom find.**

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The Apostles' Creed

Peace

Offering

Offering Hymn: ELW #677 "This Little Light of Mine"

- 1. This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'a ;let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**
- 2. Ev'ry where I go, I'm goin'a let it shine; ev'ry where I go, I'm goin'a let it shine; ev'ry where I go, I'm goin'a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**
- 3. Jesus give it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine; Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine; Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

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Offering Prayer

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

God of grace, hear our prayer.

The Great Thanksgiving

Preface

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Distribution Hymn: ELW #407 "O Living Breath of God"

- 1. O living Breath of God, wind at the beginning upon the waters;
O living Breath of God, bearing the creation to wondrous birth:**

Refrain: **Come now, and fill our spirits; pour out your gifts abundant.
O living Breath of God, Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.**

- 2. O living Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth among us;
O living Breath of God, who to the creation gives life anew: *Refrain.***
- 3. O living Breath of God, bearing us to life through baptismal waters;
O living Breath of God, sighing with creation for freedom's birth: *Refrain.***

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Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God ✚ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW #543 "Go, My Children with My Blessing"

- 1. "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."**
- 2. "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure. Here you learn 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."**
- 3. "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."**

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements

✚ The **Annual Meeting** will be held on January 26, 2025 following worship.

✚ **Thank You** Pastor Joseph Smith for leading worship today.

✚ Calvary is looking for a volunteer (or volunteers) to represent Calvary on the **Welcome Committee**, which is where Calvary and four other Mankato ELCA churches are sponsoring a family of four from Nicaragua. Ariac and Andrea Cruz and their two boys have been in Minnesota almost two years. This committee meets monthly at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Contact Bob Diesch or Jolene Anderson for more information on the committee.

✚ **Prayers:** Please continue to keep our members and loved ones in your prayers, including Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Vivian, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Chloe, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Paul, Jeannie and Gregg Nelson.

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