

January 12, 2025
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Place for Everyone . . .

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The Rev. Michael Faust, Pastor



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

*Peace to all who enter God's house for worship today.
We pray that all will find strength, security, and fellowship with
God and with one another.*

Congregation, please stand/sit as you are able.

P Presiding Minister **C** Congregation **A** Assisting Minister

Welcome to our Guests

*If you are a guest, please see one of our greeters and fill out our
gold attendance slips. We hope that you will come back and wor-
ship with us again!*

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

THE GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please stand.

(Please stand, congregation face the back)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C 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: *Shall We Gather at the River*
(blue hymnal #690)

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Let us pray. 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.

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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."

☒ This is the word of the Lord. ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 29

☒/☑ *by whole verse*

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 LORD¹ 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.

☒ This is the word of the Lord. ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

☒ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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."

GOSPEL RESPONSE

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

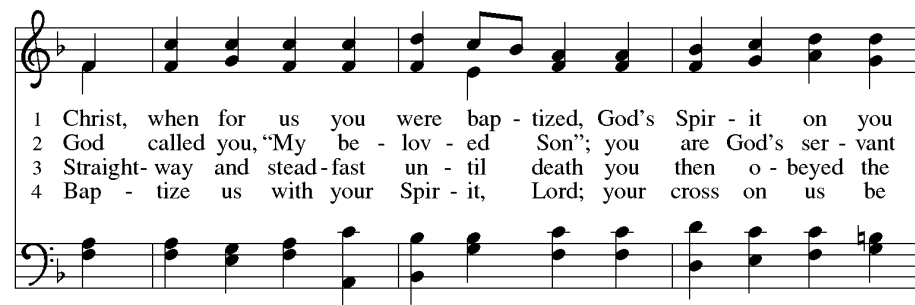
(Silence for a time of reflection)

Please stand.

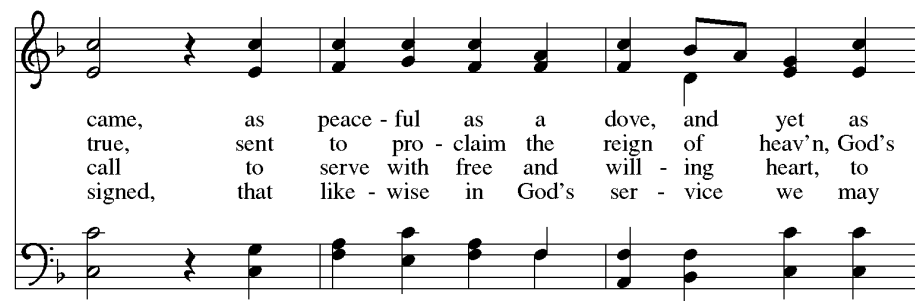
HYMN OF THE DAY:

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized
(red hymnal #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 - 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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PROFESSION OF FAITH

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, it is appropriate on this day of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ that we remember and renew the vows once spoken at our baptisms—that time when we were washed of our sins and received the Holy Spirit to dwell within us. Let us boldly make our confession of faith before God, renouncing the sinful life of godless men and women and embracing the godly life of the Spirit-filled Christian.

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C 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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C 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.

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: 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, both now and forever.

C Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A God of grace...

C hear our prayer.

THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please share this peace with one another.

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE COMMUNION MEAL

THE OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

Please stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN:

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

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 your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. 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.

C Amen.

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE

THE SANCTUS

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

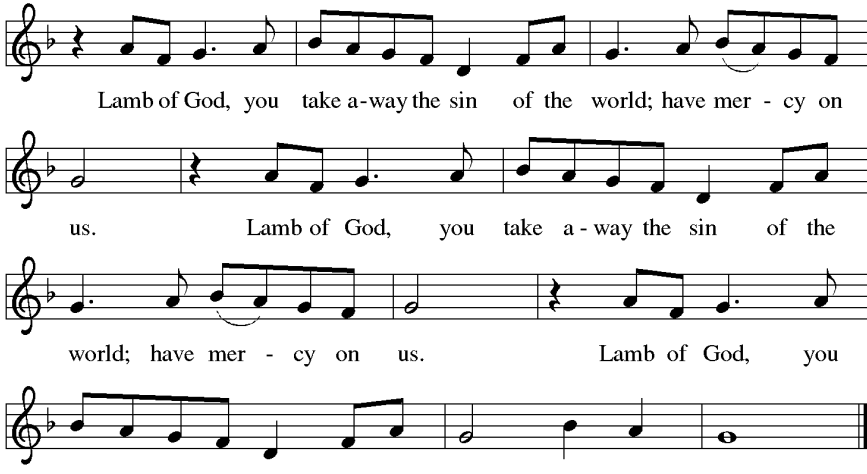
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

All Christians are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please come forward to receive the bread, then proceed to the chalice to receive the wine or continue to the second chalice to receive grape juice. Those who do not yet commune may come forward for a blessing.

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.

Please be seated

COMMUNION MEAL

COMMUNION MUSIC

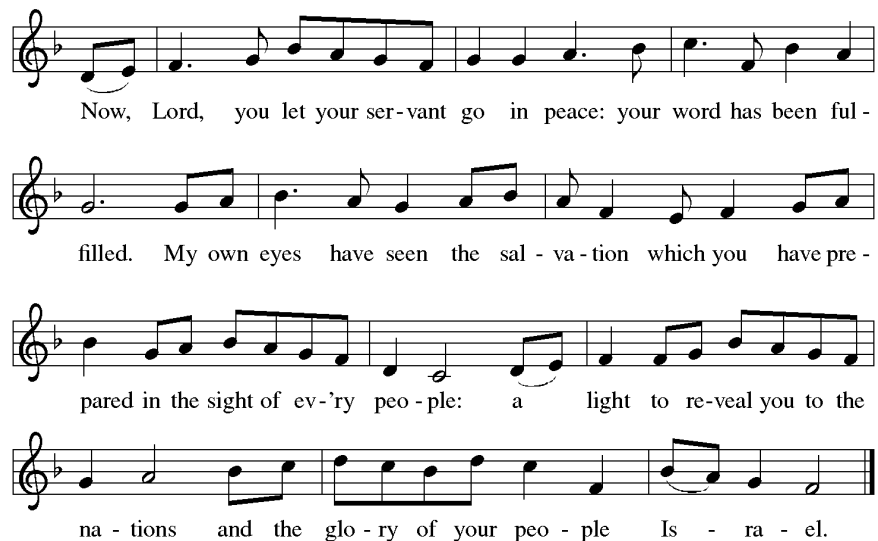
Please stand.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

THE LITURGY OF SENDING FOR SERVICE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have re-freshed 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,

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Spirit of the triune God ✝ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN:
Go, My Children, with My Blessing
(blue hymnal #721)

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Live in hope.

C Thanks be to God. We will!

POSTLUDE

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