

Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 2025

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.

PRELUDE *Trumpet Dialogue Processional* JORDAN

CONFESSION

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.

HYMN #310 *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* SALZBURG

GREETING

The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the life and peace of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. And also with you.

GLORY TO GOD

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

Refrain



for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
 peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -
 lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
 A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's
 peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -
 est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together. 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.

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.

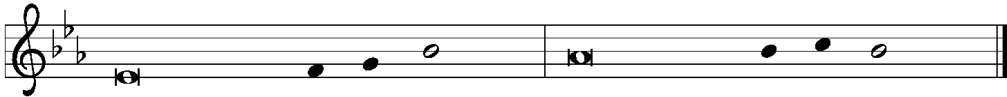
² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

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."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SENIOR CHOIR (10:45): *Be Not Afraid for You Are Mine* LLYOD LARSON

PSALM 29 (we sing responsively, verse by verse)



- ¹ Ascribe to the | Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glo- | ry and strength.
- ² **Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due God's name;
worship the Lord in the beau- | ty 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 pow- | erful 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 ce- | dars 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 wilder- | ness 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 a- | bove the flood;
 the Lord sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.
- ¹¹ O Lord, give strength | to your people;
 give them, O Lord, the bless- | ings 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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 13: 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."

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

SERMON *Friar Tucker O'Leary, Senior Pastor*

HYMN #305 *When Jesus Came to Jordan* KING'S LYNN

APOSTLES' CREED

With voices united, 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.

THE PRAYERS

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

...God of grace, hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. Amen.

YOUTH SKIT (10:45) "Twelve Words at the River Jordan"

CHILDRENS' SERMON & NOISY OFFERING

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING *There Is a Fountain* HUSTAD

OFFERTORY #692 *We Are an Offering* OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

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. 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.

It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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



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



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

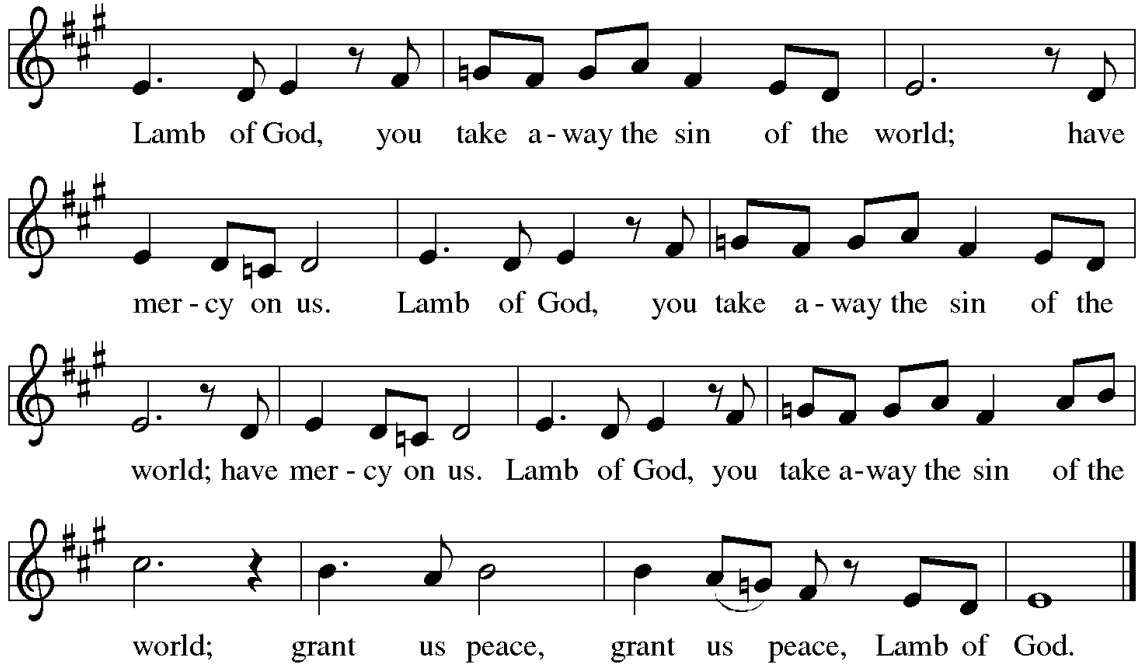
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

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

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, Lamb of God.

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. 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 #543 *Go, My Children With My Blessing* AR HYD Y NOS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Song for a New Year* MARTIN

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Be Not Afraid, For You Are Mine

Welcome to First Lutheran Church.

During our services of Holy Communion, we follow Jesus' teachings that all people are welcome to his table. This meal of faith, hope, and love is meant for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Feel free to come forward and receive the bread, or wheat-free and gluten-free wafer, along with a small cup of wine or grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign of your preference

WE ASK EVERYONE to complete the "Footprints" and list if you are communing or have a prayer request. You may write your prayer request(s) on the back. Please check YES for the name to be included in the bulletin or NO if you want the name to be known only to the prayer teams. We strive for confidentiality, so be sure you have the person's permission, or use only the first name. There are activity bags for our young worshippers. Please ask an usher for assistance.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the Glory of God by Toni Poling in honor of Judy Weber's 75th birthday, and to all moms.

THE 2025 FLOWER CHART is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There is a full year of Sundays that need flowers to brighten not only the altar, but also either your home or the home of a shut-in. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.

A CARD WRITING MINISTRY has been set up on a table outside the Narthex! The Social Ministry Committee encourages everyone to write a note to an At-Home member, to a member having a birthday, or just to someone you haven't seen in a while! Addresses for At-Home members and a list of monthly birthdays is available on the table. If you put the card in the basket available, the mailing will be handled by the office!

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL IS TODAY. We are blessed to have the following council members serve our congregation: Gary (Chip) Altman, Ali Cox (Youth), Casey Cox, Marilyn Dunn, Elaine Miller, Evan Pitt, Diana Salisbury, Maria Schell, Jim Schoerger, Arlene Schriener, Cindy Thompson, Kristen Warren, Janet Wobser. May God bless our council members and our congregation in 2025.

CHRISTIAN CLEARING HOUSE IS HONORING FIRST LUTHERAN!

First Lutheran is being honored for our contribution and work with Christian Clearing House. This will take place at their annual meeting on January 30th. The meeting will take place at the Knights of Columbus (701 W Main Cross St) at 8am with breakfast provided! If you would like to attend, please inform the office before January 22nd so we can RSVP. This is a wonderful way that we have been and will continue to be involved in our community!!

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is Sunday, January 26th following the 10:45 service (around 12:00). The agenda for the afternoon is:

- Celebrate our accomplishments of 2024
- Approve the 2025 Budget
- Elect the 2025 Nominating Committee
- Elect/appoint the 2025 Delegates for the Synod Assembly

Lunch will be provided.

A VALENTINE SNOWFLAKE SOCIAL for all women of the church will be held on Wednesday, February 5th from 6:30 to 8:00pm. All women and girls are invited to enjoy an evening of fun which will include supper and making a special valentine craft. You can show your heart by bringing an in-kind offering of bath tissues, paper towels, diapers, hand or laundry soap, dish detergent or shampoo. All gifts will benefit the Christian Clearing House. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board!

SEVERE STORMS, HURRICANES, AND NATURAL DISASTERS across the United States have left many without power and/or without homes. With your support our church stands ready to walk with our neighbors as they rebuild. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response ensure that survivors don't have to face the road to recovery alone. Through these disasters and others across the United States and around the world, Lutheran Disaster Response accompanies communities for as long as the recovery process takes. Together we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need. There are Lutheran Disaster Response envelopes in the narthex or you may mark your gift Lutheran Disaster Response.