The Epiphany and Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.

Service of Holy Communion

with Holy Baptism and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows



Prayer before worship:

Everlasting God, fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all through Him who is the true Light and the bright Morning Star, Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless this time of worship, drawing our hearts and minds to you. Amen.

Prelude

"L'Epiphanie" (M. Durufle)

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism

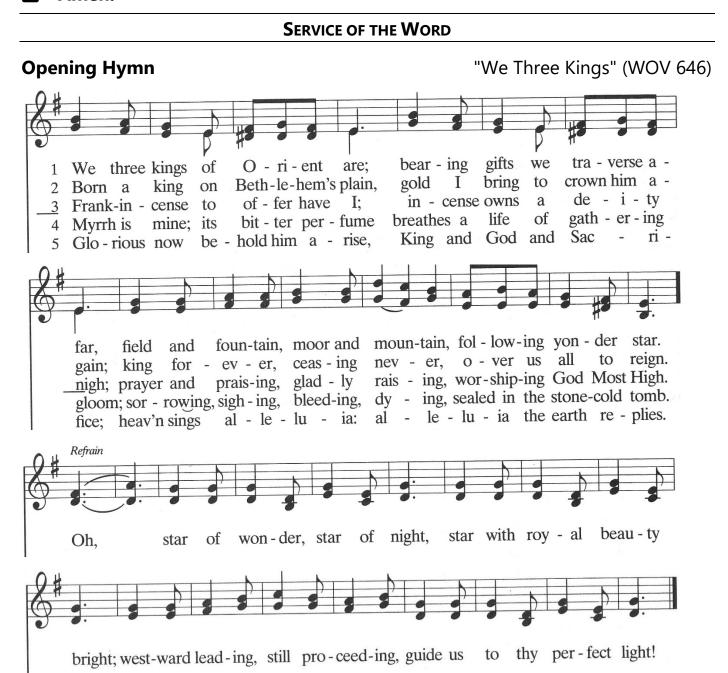
- In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to be born for you and to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.



Text: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820–1891, alt. Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820–1891

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT 88446 and refrain

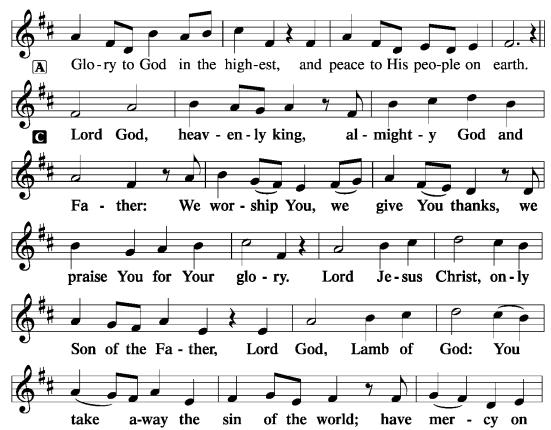
Greeting

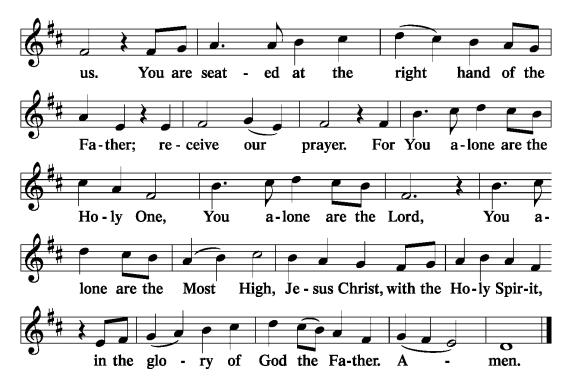
- The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- And also with you.

Opening Dialogue

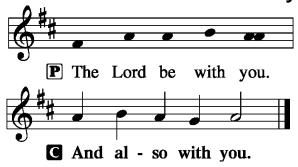
- In holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life.
- By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ.
- As we live with Christ and with his people, we grow in faith, love and obedience to the will of God.
- **I** For all who are baptized into Christ and anointed by his Spirit:
- **C** Let our mission and ministry be a light to the nations!
- May almighty God keep us all in the covenant of our Baptism to life eternal!
- Amen. Let it be so.

Gloria in Excelsis





Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray:

Almighty God, as you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star, and as you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, so lead all who are baptized into his death and resurrection and make us inheritors with him of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

C Amen.

First Reading Matthew 2:1-12

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired

of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

6"'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

I This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle (read responsively)

Romans 6:1-11

- L What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?
- By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?
- **L** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
- We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
- **I** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
- We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.
- **I** For one who has died has been set free from sin.
- Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.
- L We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

L So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel Mark 1:4-11

Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.



⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I 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 when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

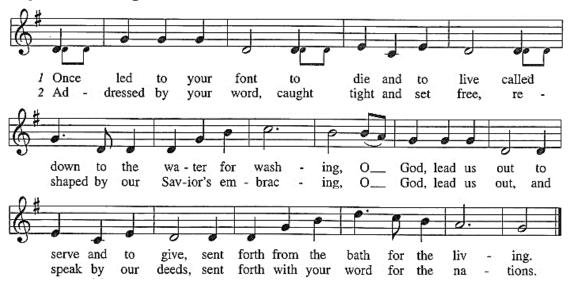
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Baptismal Song

"Once Led to Your Font" (stanzas 1 and 2)



Once Led to Your Font: A Keyboard Collection, Mark Sedio, ISBN 0-8006-7785-4
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P Holy Baptism today is given for Georgiana Elizabeth, child of Robert and Flannery Macynski. Serving as her sponsors are Caroline and Alex Stapleton.

Presentation of Baptismal Candidate

R We present Georgiana Elizabeth to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The Address

The pastor speaks to those assembled for Baptism

- In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring her to the services of God's house, and teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As she grows in years, you should place in her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for her instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of her Baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ. Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?
- R I do.

The Thanksgiving

The pastor pours the water to be used for Holy Baptism into the font

- P The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Flood Prayer

This prayer, written by Martin Luther, acknowledges God's saving acts throughout history by means of water.

- P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.
- By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.
- In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the slavery to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life.
- He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the

 → Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.
- To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

The Renunciation

Candidates for Baptism and sponsors join together in renouncing the works of Satan.

- P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?
- R I do.

The Profession of Faith *Candidates for Baptism, their sponsors, and the congregation join together in affirming their belief in the triune God.*

- **P** Do you believe in God the Father?
- **■** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ?
- I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at

the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- 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.

The WashingThe pastor baptizes the candidate(s) with these words:

P Georgiana Elizabeth, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Laying on of Hands

The pastor lays hands on the head of the baptized and prays for the Holy Spirit's work in their life:

P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy Sacrament. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Georgiana Elizabeth: 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.

C Amen.

The Sealing The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized with oil prepared for this purpose. As the sign of the cross is made, the pastor says:

P Georgiana Elizabeth, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C Amen.

A lighted candle is given to the baptized with these words:

- Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- Finally, let us pray for the parents of this child:
 O God, giver of all life, look with kindness upon the parents of Georgiana
 Elizabeth, Rob and Flannery. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given
 them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child.
 Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally the salvation
 you have given to them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

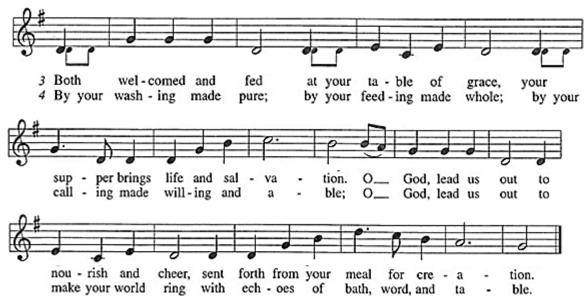
The Welcome

Those who have been baptized turn and face the congregation as these words are spoken:

- I Through Baptism, God has made this child a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear His creative and redeeming Word to all the world.
- We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.

Response

"Once Led to Your Font" (stanzas 3 and 4)



Once Led to Your Font: A Keyboard Collection, Mark Sedio, ISBN 0-8006-7785-4
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Sermon "Star and Dove"

Hymn of the Day

"When Jesus Came to Jordan" (WOV 647)





Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows (from the Baptismal font)

- Holy Baptism is the means by which our heavenly Father creates new sons and daughters. In the waters of Baptism we are joined to the death and resurrection of our Lord. Born again by water and the Spirit, we are made members of the Body of Christ. Living in fellowship with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love and obedience to the will of God. I call upon you, therefore, to renew the solemn vows and promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced the devil and all his works and ways, and were made members of Christ's Church.
- P Do you reaffirm your renunciation of all the forces of evil, the devil and all his empty promises?
- I do.
- Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
- I will with God's help.
- Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
- **G** I will with God's help.

- **P** Will you seek to serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
- I will with God's help.
- Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
- I will with God's help.
- P Brothers and sisters, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
- **W**e live and serve in the light and love of Christ.
- May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in his grace to life eternal, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Celebrating God made manifest to all nations, let us pray for all creation, the whole church, and all who are in need.

Today, as we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, we pray especially for all those baptized during 2023:

Reese Helen Davis, Matteo Stefano Coello Palmisano, Levi Tucker Rasdorf, Eva Gray Schillero, and Lilly Ryann Dunn

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer.

During the Epiphany season each petition ends with the phrase:

Lord, in your mercy." Please respond by saying "Hear our prayer."

The prayers end with the words:

- P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting that your mercy is offered freely to all people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3)

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

L Let us pray:

Loving God, you sent your only Son to live among us, bringing us your grace and truth. As we prepare to receive the gift of Christ's presence once again, all we have to offer is what you have given us. Receive all that we have and all that we are to your glory and for your service, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

and forever.

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My
 → body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My
 → blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your incarnation, epiphany and baptism; Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-13

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.

Pax Domini

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.





Distribution

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

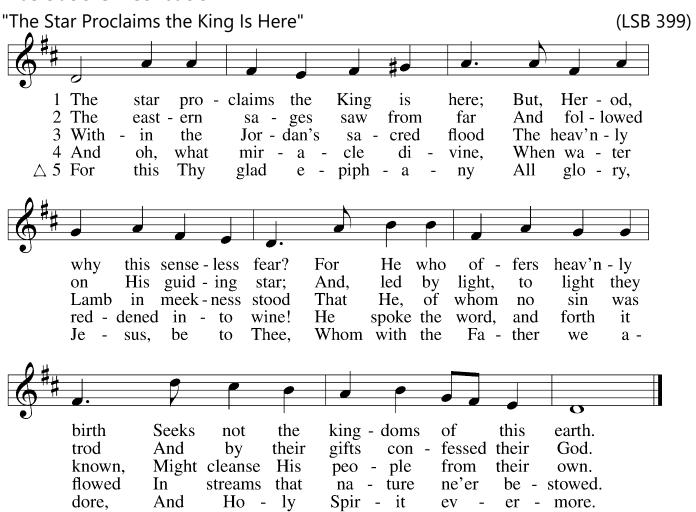
Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Ouestions with Their

Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

(Distribution music, next page)

Music at the Distribution



Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug Text and tune: Public domain

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

(LSB 394)



- 1 Songs of thank ful ness and praise, Je sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
- 2 Man i fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;
- 3 Man i fest in mak-ing whole Pal sied limbs and faint ing soul;
- 4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
- 5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres ent in Thy ho ly Word—



Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far, at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest; Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell-ing all the dev - il's might; Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo-rious sign; Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And pure art Thou; be pure, as

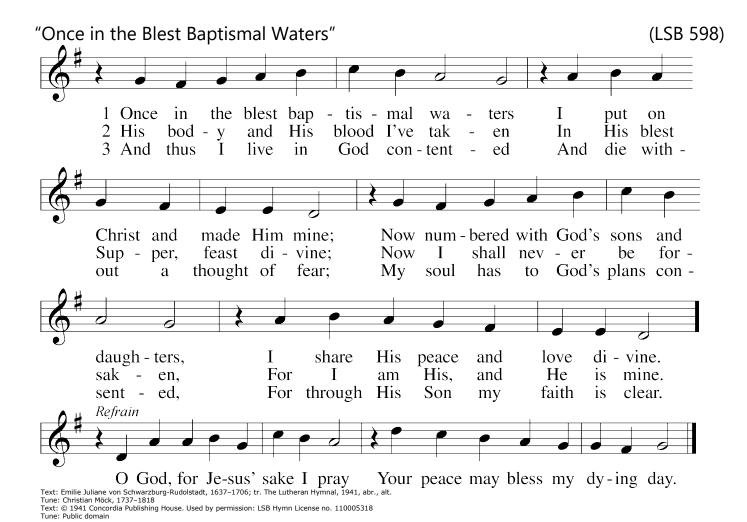


Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem: Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine; Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev er bring-ing good from ill; will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap-pear; we might be-come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest. An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest. An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest. Thou by all wilt be con-fessed, God in man made man - i - fest. And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93 Text and tune: Public domain



Dismissal

Post-Communion Canticle



Post-Communion Collect

L Let us pray:

Loving God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

"We Were Baptized in Christ Jesus" (WOV 698)



- 1 We were bap-tized in Christ Je sus, we were bap-tized in his death;
- 2 In the wa-ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,
- 3 Glo-rv be to God the Fa-ther. glo-rv be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ was raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life. in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead, glo-ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his, God has made a new be - gin-ning from the ash - es of our past; as it was in the be - gin-ning, glo - ry now re-sounds a - gain



Postlude

Toccata from "Suite Gothique, Op. 25" (L. Boellmann)

+ + +

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/ Preacher Pastor Meehan

Welcome Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship

Lay Assistant Tish Nordvall
Communion Lay Assistant Mike Nordvall

Organist/Pianist David Leahey, Director of Music

Acolyte Jenna Swale

Crucifer Giulianna Vazquez

Ushers Benjamin May

Michelle May

Altar Care Pat Wangeman

AV Operator Greg Auld

Welcome Host Angela Schultz

Nursery Janet Smith

+ + +

To **Give** to St. John's Lutheran Church scan this QR Code



To download our new SJLC app text "APP" or "App" or "app" to (877) 776-1304



This weekend's **altar flowers** are given in celebration of the Baptism of our daughter,

Georgiana Elizabeth Macynski

To **view** the current edition of our electronic weekly newsletter, **Midweek Update**, scan this QR Code



Acknowledgments

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