

**God's Service Sunday, January 12, 2025**  
Baptism of Our Lord  
WOV Holy Communion Setting Five: Bread of Life



## **WELCOME**

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. Let us prepare our hearts and minds to meet Jesus in God's Service today as we listen to the prelude.

## **PRELUDE "The Spirit's Entry" arr. by Lasky**

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*Gather the children around the font. Invite the children to repeat each sentence.*

We praise you, O God, for water.

**We praise you, O God, for water.**

We need water to drink.

**We need water to drink.**

We need water to wash.

**We need water to wash.**

We need water to grow.

**We need water to grow.**

We praise you, O God, for water.

**We praise you, O God, for water.**

We praise you, O God, for baptism.

**We praise you, O God, for baptism.**

We praise you, O God, for your Spirit.

**We praise you, O God, for your Spirit.**

*Invite the children to stretch their hands out over the font. Pour water over their hands into the font.*

We praise you, O God, for water.

**We praise you, O God, for water.**

Amen, with water.

**Amen, with water**

*Invite the children to mark their own or one another's foreheads with water & the sign of the cross.*

## ENTRANCE HYMN “Shall We Gather at the River” (WOV 690)

1 Shall we gather at the river,  
where bright angel 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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## GREETING (WOV p. 28)

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.**

## KYRIE (WOV p. 28)

Kyrie eleison:

*Lord, have mercy:*

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christe eleison:

*Christ, have mercy:*

**Christ, have mercy.**

Kyrie eleison:

*Lord, have mercy:*

Lord, have mercy.

**HYMN OF PRAISE (WOV p. 29)**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:  
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth,  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**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.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> 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.  
<sup>2</sup> 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.  
<sup>3</sup> 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.  
<sup>4</sup> 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.  
<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;  
 I will bring your offspring from the east,  
 and from the west I will gather you;  
<sup>6</sup> 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—  
<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,  
 whom I created for my glory,  
 whom I formed and made."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 29**

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the <sup>l</sup>LORD, you gods,  
 ascribe to the LORD glo- <sup>l</sup>ry and strength.  
<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory <sup>l</sup>due his name;**  
**worship the LORD in the beau- <sup>l</sup>ty of holiness.**  
<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of <sup>l</sup>glory thunders;  
 the LORD is upon the <sup>l</sup>mighty waters.  
<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a pow- <sup>l</sup>erful voice;**  
**the voice of the LORD is a <sup>l</sup>voice of splendor. R**  
<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the <sup>l</sup>cedar trees;  
 the LORD breaks the ce- <sup>l</sup>dars of Lebanon;  
<sup>6</sup> **he makes Lebanon skip <sup>l</sup>like a calf,**  
**and Mount Hermon like a <sup>l</sup>young wild ox.**  
<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire; the voice of the LORD <sup>l</sup>shakes the  
 wilderness;

- the LORD shakes the wilder-<sup>1</sup>ness of Kadesh.
- <sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD makes the<sup>1</sup> oak trees writhe and strips the<sup>1</sup> forests bare. R**
- <sup>9</sup> And in the temple<sup>1</sup> of the LORD all are<sup>1</sup> crying, “Glory!”
- <sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned a-<sup>1</sup>bove the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as<sup>1</sup> king forevermore.**
- <sup>11</sup> The LORD shall give strength<sup>1</sup> to his people; the LORD shall give his people the bless-<sup>1</sup>ing of peace. **R**

## **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.*

A reading from Acts.

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia.* You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased. *Alleluia.* (Mark 1:11)

## **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.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.”

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> 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**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY “When Jesus Came to Jordan” (WOV 647)**

- 1     When Jesus came to Jordan  
      to be baptized by John,  
      he did not come for pardon  
      but as the Sinless One.  
      He came to share repentance  
      with all who mourn their sins,  
      to speak the vital sentence  
      with which good news begins.
  
- 2     He came to share temptation,  
      our utmost woe and loss,  
      for us and our salvation  
      to die upon the cross.  
      So when the dove descended  
      on him, the Son of Man,  
      the hidden years had ended,  
      the age of grace began.
  
- 3     Come, Holy Spirit, aid us  
      to keep the vows we make;  
      this very day invade us,  
      and ev'ry bondage break.  
      Come, give our lives direction,  
      the gift we covet most:  
      to share the resurrection  
      that leads to Pentecost.

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### **APOSTLES' CREED (WOV p. 33)**

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

**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.**

**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.

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans, the Popo Agie, Wind and Sweetwater, Louis Lake, Frye, Fiddlers, Worthen Meadow, Ocean and Boysen and more. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery. We pray especially for Shirley, Anna, Kay, Carolyn, Cheryl, Gene, Darla, Jim, and these we name now in our hearts and with our voices...*(pause for names to be spoken)*. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. 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.**

**PEACE (WOV p. 34)**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Peace be with you.**

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**SHARING GOD'S ABUNDANCE**

Jesus came that we might know the unending breadth of God's abundant love for each of us. May that unending love overflow through us into this world in pain. That all people and all of God's creation may experience and know the depth of God's love for all of God's creation. If you have abundance to share today, please raise you hand and an usher will come by to collect it. Online you may give at [landerlutherans.org](http://landerlutherans.org). May we overflow with gratitude and generosity.

**OFFERING MUSIC “We Praise Thy Name” arr. by Wilson**

**SETTING THE TABLE “What Feast of Love” (ELW 487)**

- 1     What feast of love is offered here,  
      what banquet come from heaven?  
      What food of everlasting life,  
      what gracious gift is given?  
      This, this is Christ the king,  
      the bread come down from heaven.  
      Oh, taste and see and sing!  
      How sweet the manna given!
  
- 2     What light of truth is offered here,  
      what covenant from heaven?  
      What hope of everlasting life,  
      what wondrous word is given?  
      This, this is Christ the king,  
      the sun come down from heaven.  
      Oh, see and hear and sing!  
      The Word of God is given!
  
- 3     What wine of love is offered here,  
      what crimson drink from heaven?



What stream of everlasting life,  
what precious blood is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
the sweetest wine of heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
The Son of God is given!

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### **OFFERTORY 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.**

### **DIALOGUE (WOV p. 36)**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also 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.**

### **PREFACE (WOV p. 36)**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In him you have received us as your children, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us your Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **SANCTUS (WOV p. 36)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING (WOV P. 37)

### Thanksgiving at the Table

We praise you, all-holy God,  
our maker, our lover, our keeper,  
who call us each by name.  
for the universe beyond our knowing,  
for lands and seas and all their animals,  
for water and naming us your beloved children

and for friends and strangers and family,  
for homes and grocery stores and schools,  
for churches, mountains and stars.

We praise you for your covenant people,  
for Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam,  
for Isaiah, and the prophets.

and for centuries of faithful Christians,  
for Mary and Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul,  
and for Joseph, the magi, and the shepherds.

We praise you for your Son Jesus Christ,  
who saves us from sin and from evil,  
who showed us an image of who you are.  
who on the night before he died 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.

And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for your Holy Spirit,  
your breath, your fire, your wisdom,  
That it may ignite the tired embers of love that glow within us.  
Nourish us with the body and blood of Christ,

inspire your people for service,  
Open our eyes to new visions of our neighbors

and renew the world with your mercy,  
with your healing, your justice, and your peace,  
that names as your beloved children we may love the world as you do.

We praise you, all-holy God,  
the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit,  
to whom we belong,  
today, tomorrow, and forever.

Amen. Amen.  
**Amen. Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER (WOV p. 39)**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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**

Receive who you are; Become what you receive. Come to this table, you who are strong in faith and you who seek building up. You who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for some time. You who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come. In joy Christ bids us meet him here. Come eat this meal of gladness. There is a place already set just for you at his table.

### **COMMUNION (WOV p. 39)**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
**Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMN (WOV p. 39)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**grant us peace, grant us peace.**

**DISTRIBUTION MUSIC “On Jordan's Bank” arr. by Sobaje**

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (WOV p. 40)**

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

**Amen.**

**Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ryone what God has done.**

**Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and bear Christ's holy name.**

**Send us with your promises, O God, and lead us forth in joy**

**with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia.**

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

The Spirit of the triune God

✠ bless you with joy,

anoint you with compassion,

and send you in love.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” (WOV 721)**

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 learned 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 his tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

4 “I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.  
I the Lord will smile upon you, and give you peace.  
I the Lord will be your Father,  
Savior, Comforter and Brother.  
Go, my children, I will keep you, and give you peace.”

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## **DISMISSAL**

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

### **Upcoming Commemorations**

**Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968**

**Wednesday, January 15, 2025**

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

**Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356**

**Friday, January 17, 2025**

One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.

**Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346**

**Friday, January 17, 2025**

Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.

**Confession of Peter**

**Saturday, January 18, 2025**

Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.

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