

## AS WE GATHER

Today is the first of the bookends that mark the Epiphany season—the Baptism of Our Lord and His Transfiguration. In common is the command from God to “listen to Him.” We begin our journey of listening to the Lord, learning from those who went before, acknowledging the revelation of the Lamb of God in baptismal water, and looking to Him, the Word made flesh. In His Baptism, our Lord was not washed because He was unclean but because we are. The Father saw the prophetic words of Isaiah fulfilled in the water of the Jordan, and He claimed Jesus as His own Son and our appointed Redeemer. “You are Mine,” said the Lord to Jesus. Because He said those words to Jesus, they are now addressed to us—the people for whom Jesus was baptized.

## THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 12, 2025

### HYMN “Baptized into Your Name Most Holy” LSB 590

- 1 Baptized into Your name most holy,  
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,  
Among Your saints, Your chosen host.  
Buried with Christ and dead to sin,  
Your Spirit now shall live within.
- 2 My loving Father, here You take me  
To be henceforth Your child and heir.  
My faithful Savior, here You make me  
The fruit of all Your sorrows share.  
O Holy Spirit, comfort me  
When threat’ning clouds around I see.
- 3 My faithful God, You fail me never;  
Your promise surely will endure.  
O cast me not away forever  
If words and deeds become impure.  
Have mercy when I come defiled;  
Forgive, lift up, restore Your child.
- 4 All that I am and love most dearly—  
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.  
Let me confess my faith sincerely;  
Help me Your faithful child to be!  
Let nothing that I am or own  
Serve any will but Yours alone.

Text: Johann Jacob Rambach, 1693–1735, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Cornelius Heinrich Dretzel, 1697-1775; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

## INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

## EXHORTATION

LSB 151

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

## CONFESSION OF SINS

LSB 151

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
C **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.**

## ABSOLUTION

LSB 151

- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son 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.**

## KYRIE

LSB 152

- P In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
C **Amen.**

## SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray.  
Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 43:1-7*

But now, this is what the Lord says- he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead.

Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life.

Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west.

I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth-everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

*Romans 6:1-11*

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

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

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 3:15-22*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ.

John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too.

And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."  
(NIV)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**HYMN "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It" LSB 594** *sung to tune of LSB 420 Christ the Life of All the Living*

- 1 God's own child, I gladly say it:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
He, because I could not pay it,  
Gave my full redemption price.  
Do I need earth's treasures many?  
I have one worth more than any  
That brought me salvation free  
Lasting to eternity!
- 2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
I have comfort even stronger:  
Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.  
Should a guilty conscience seize me  
Since my Baptism did release me  
In a dear forgiving flood,  
Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?

- 3 Satan, hear this proclamation:  
 I am baptized into Christ!  
 Drop your ugly accusation,  
 I am not so soon enticed.  
 Now that to the font I've traveled,  
 All your might has come unraveled,  
 And, against your tyranny,  
 God, my Lord, unites with me!
- 4 Death, you cannot end my gladness:  
 I am baptized into Christ!  
 When I die, I leave all sadness  
 To inherit paradise!  
 Though I lie in dust and ashes  
 Faith's assurance brightly flashes:  
 Baptism has the strength divine  
 To make life immortal mine.
- 5 There is nothing worth comparing  
 To this lifelong comfort sure!  
 Open-eyed my grave is staring:  
 Even there I'll sleep secure.  
 Though my flesh awaits its raising,  
 Still my soul continues praising:  
 I am baptized into Christ;  
 I'm a child of paradise!

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957

Tune: Das grosse Cantional, Darnstadt, 1687; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

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**SERMON** *He hadn't heard his Dad's voice for 30 years...*

**Text:** Luke 3:15-22

## **OFFERING**

**HYMN** “**Children of the Heavenly Father**” **LSB 725**

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father  
 Safely in His bosom gather;  
 Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
 Such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2 God His own doth tend and nourish;  
 In His holy courts they flourish.  
 From all evil things He spares them;  
 In His mighty arms He bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever  
 From the Lord His children sever;  
 Unto them His grace He showeth,  
 And their sorrows all He knoweth.

4 Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Tune: Lofsanger och andeliga wisor, Sweden, 1873

Text and music: Public domain

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P Father, in Jordan's baptismal water, You fulfilled the word of the prophet and washed us clean to become Your own children. Grant that we may rejoice in our Savior's Baptism, which gives hope to our own Baptism and through which You now behold us as Your own people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P You have called us by name and placed upon us Your name and Your grace; give now Your Spirit that we may hear the voice of Your Son speaking hope through the Word and believe in Him faithfully to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Embolden Your church with Your Word and gifts that we may address the world with hope of sins forgiven and death undone by the death and resurrection of our Lord and that hearing this Gospel, many may believe. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Equip and bless all pastors, church workers and those training for church work vocations, that at home and abroad there may be faithful servants to support and care for Your people in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Guide the leaders of our nation and community with Your Word that they may act with integrity and serve in accordance with Your will, assisting virtue, justice, and peace here and in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give to Your people generous hearts that as richly as we have received, we may also give. Bless the tithes and offerings we bring with the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving for all Your goodness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Abide with the troubled in mind, the wounded in body, and the broken in spirit, that they may know Your presence in their hour of need and be granted healing, comfort, and peace according to Your will. [*Hear us especially for . . .*] Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

*Additional petitions may be included here.*

P Recalling John, at whose hand our Lord was baptized, and those who delivered to us the faith in Word and Sacrament, grant that we may also so faithfully pass on the witness of Your mercy and be kept in life and be faithful unto death; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

## 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.**

## 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.**

## HYMN “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me” LSB 722

- 1 Lord, take my hand and lead me  
Upon life's way;  
Direct, protect, and feed me  
From day to day.  
Without Your grace and favor  
I go astray;  
So take my hand, O Savior,  
And lead the way.
- 2 Lord, when the tempest rages,  
I need not fear,  
For You, the Rock of Ages,  
Are always near.  
Close by Your side abiding,  
I fear no foe,  
For when Your hand is guiding,  
In peace I go.
- 3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen  
And night has come,  
I know that You will strengthen  
My steps toward home.  
Then nothing can impede me,  
O blessed Friend;  
So take my hand and lead me  
Unto the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Tune: P. Friedrich Silcher, 1780-1860; Setting: Service Book and Hymnal, 1958 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003888 Music: Public domain

## **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God.**

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