

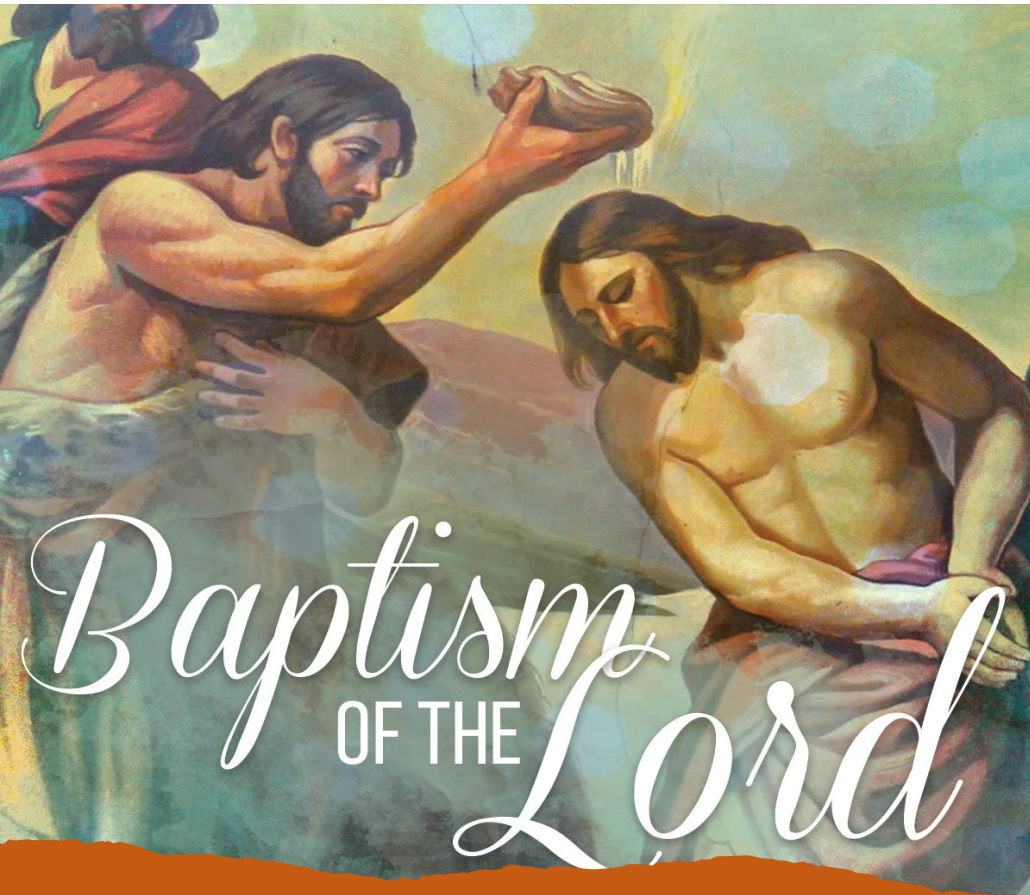


***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor***

January 12, 2025



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Baptism OF THE Lord

WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



lcmc

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

INTRODUCTION

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

Gathering Song

“Wash, O God, Ours Sons and Daughters”

Hymn # 445

**1 Wash, O God, our sons and
daughters
where your cleansing waters
flow,**

Hymn # 445

**Number them among your
people;
bless as Christ blessed long
ago,**

Hymn # 445

**Weave them garments bright
and sparkling;
compass them with love and
light,**

Hymn # 445

**Fill, anoint them; send your
Spirit
holy dove and heart's delight.**

Hymn # 445

**2 We who bring them long for
nurture;
by your milk may we be fed,**

Hymn # 445

**Let us join your feast,
partaking
cup of blessing, living bread,**

Hymn # 445

**God, renew us, guide our
footsteps;
free from sin and all its
snares,**

Hymn # 445

**one with Christ in living,
dying,
by your Spirit, children, heirs.**

Hymn # 445

**Final Oh, how deep our holy
wisdom!
Unimagined all your ways!**

Hymn # 445

**To your name be glory, honor!
With our lives we worship,
praise!**

Hymn # 445

**We your people stand before
you,
water-washed and Spirit born,**

Hymn # 445

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

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Glory To God

*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.*

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

*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.*

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

*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.*

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

*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

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

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.

¹But 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.

²When 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.

³For 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.

⁴Because 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.

⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶I 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—
⁷everyone 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.

PSALM: PSALM 29

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

- 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 LORD 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.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The 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). ¹⁷Then 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

Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia.

You have the words of eternal Life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John 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. ¹⁷His 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."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and 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.



CHILDREN'S
SERMON

Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley







Hymn of the Day

“Baptized in Water”

Hymn # 456

**¹ Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of
Christ our king:**

Hymn # 456

**heirs of salvation,
trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we
sing.**

Hymn # 456

**2 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ
our king:**

Hymn # 456

**one with his rising,
freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise
we sing.**

Hymn # 456

**Final Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ
our king:**

Hymn # 456

**born of the spirit,
we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praise we
sing.**

Hymn # 456

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

Apostles' Creed

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

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. 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 recovering from surgery, undergoing treatment, or who are ill (especially). 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.

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries: for Cheryl Kruckemeyer our missionary in Tanzania, for Jorge and Christina in the Home Office serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregations at Peace Lutheran Church in Rockdale, Texas & Fahlun Lutheran Church in Nelson, Minnesota. Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders, our students, teachers and school administrators. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you sent your son with a mission to seek and to save the lost. Give us the courage and faith to join you in the Kingdom work that you are up to right in our own community. We thank you for our network of churches, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ and our Texas District. By the power of your Holy Spirit, guide our District Council and give them wisdom as they promote our mission to multiply disciples and churches. Today we also give you thanks for St. Paul in Karnes City, Texas and their pastor Thomas Mutz. Bless their work for your Kingdom's sake. 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

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Amen.

Canticle of Thanksgiving

Refrain ***Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb for ever and
ever.***

¹ Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe; just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.

Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?

Refrain **Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and
ever.**

***2 For you alone are the Holy One,
and blessed is the one whose
name is the Word of God.
All praise and thanks to you, holy
God!***

Refrain **Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and
ever.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

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

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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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

Amen.

Sending Song

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Hymn # 543

**¹ Go, my children, with my
blessing, never alone. Waking,
sleeping, I am with you; you are
my own.**

Hymn # 543

**In my love's baptismal river I
have made you mine forever. Go,
my children, with my blessing,
you are my own.**

Hymn # 543

**2 Go, my children, sins forgiven, at
peace and pure. Here you learned
how much I love you, what I can
cure.**

Hymn # 543

**Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at
peace and pure.**

Hymn # 543

**Final Go, my children, fed and
nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.**

Hymn # 543

**Here my Spirit's power filled you;
here his tender comfort stilled
you. Go, my children, fed and
nourished, joyful and free.**

Hymn # 543

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

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