



# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

+ The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord +

# THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

+ January 7, 2024 +

*“You Are My Beloved Son”*



We welcome our members and guests to Christ Lutheran today,  
and pray God’s richest blessings upon you during this time of worship!

*All members and our guests are asked to complete the  
worship attendance pads which can be found on each pew.  
Guests are also asked to sign the guest register found in the Narthex.  
We are so glad to have you worshipping with us today!*

*LARGE PRINT worship folders are available  
at the usher stand at the back of the nave.*

## **WELCOME:**

“For three reasons the Savior accepted baptism from John. First, because He was born a man, that He might fulfill all justice and humility. Second, that by His baptism He might confirm John’s baptism. And third, that by sanctifying the waters of the Jordan through the descent of the dove, He might show the Holy Spirit’s advent in the baptism of all believers.”

– St. Jerome, *Commentary on Matthew*

# THE LORD'S SUPPER

In preparation for reception of the Lord's Supper (*Holy Communion*), it is important that we review and understand what the Bible teaches regarding this sacrament:

The Bible teaches that Jesus gives us His very body and blood along with bread and wine in Holy Communion<sup>1</sup>, and that these are means by which He forgives our sins<sup>2</sup>, and strengthens us for daily living, and draws us into closer fellowship with Him and other believers. The Bible also teaches us to examine ourselves prior to receiving the meal<sup>3</sup>. For those receiving Holy Communion, examine yourself with these questions:

**Do I believe that I am a sinner and I am sorry for my sins?**

**Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior?**

**Do I believe that Christ's true body and blood are present in this holy meal for my forgiveness?**

**Do I truly intend with the help of God to correct my sinful life?**

According to Christ's Word in the Holy Scriptures, and in confession with the true Christian faith, at Christ Lutheran we observe the practice of closed communion. We believe that all who commune must confess the same holy faith, as Holy Scripture teaches. Since one's church affiliation indicates an individual's confession of faith, we ask that only those who have been instructed in the above teaching **and** are confirmed members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod commune. If you have not been instructed in this teaching on Holy Communion, are in doubt, or hold a different confession of faith<sup>4</sup>, you are still welcome to come forward and cross your arms to indicate that you would like a blessing.

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 26:28; 1 John 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19

<sup>3</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:28-32

<sup>4</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:17; 1 Corinthians 11:26

# DIVINE SERVICE I

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

*The congregation may use this time for prayer and meditation.*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

## To Jordan's River Came Our Lord

#405

*The congregation stands to face the back of the church.  
As the processional cross passes, the congregation turns to face the cross.*

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**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.**

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

**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.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and 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 ✠ the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

**INTROIT: QUARE FREMUERUNT GENTES**

*Psalm 2:7-12; Ant. Isaiah 42:1*



Behold my servant, whom | I uphold,\*  
my chosen, in whom my | soul delights.

**I will tell of | the decree:\***

**The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you.  
Ask of me, and I will make the nations your | heritage,\*  
and the ends of the earth your pos- | session.**

You shall break them with a | rod of iron\*  
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s | vessel.”

Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;\*  
be warned, O rulers | of the earth.

**Serve the | LORD with fear,\*  
and rejoice with | trembling,  
for his wrath is quickly | kindled.\***

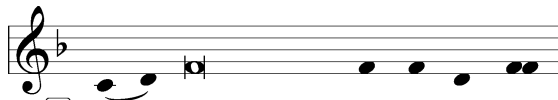
**Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in him.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Behold my servant, whom | I uphold,\*  
my chosen, in whom my | soul delights.

**KYRIE**

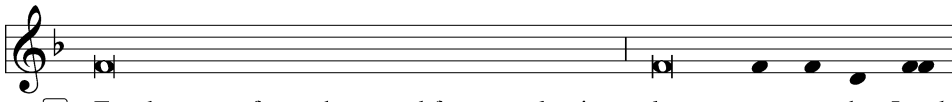
*Mark 10:47*



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



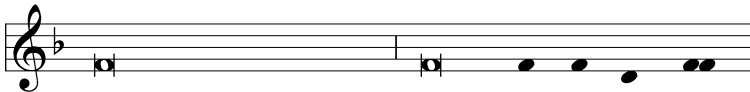
**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



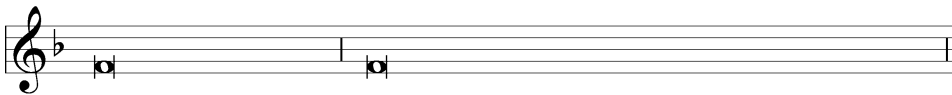
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



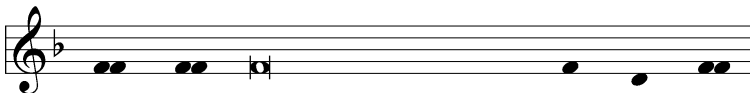
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

# GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



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.



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.

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**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** A - men.

*Please be seated*

## OLD TESTAMENT

*Genesis 1:1-5*

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.





## GOSPEL PROCESSION

*As the Word of God is brought down into the congregation, so our Lord Jesus Christ comes and speaks graciously in the midst of His people.*



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.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Mark 1:4-11*

**P** The Holy ✠ Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And 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. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And 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. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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

*Please be seated*

OFFICE HYMN

Glory Be to Jesus

#433

*Please stand*

## NICENE CREED

**C** **I believe in one God,** (Rom 10:10; Deut 6:4)  
**the Father Almighty,** (Mt 6:9; Ex 6:3)  
**maker of heaven and earth** (Gen 1:1; Jn 1:1)  
**and of all things visible and invisible.** (Col 1:16)

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,** (Rom 10:9)  
**the only-begotten Son of God,** (Jn 3:16; Mt 16:16)  
**begotten of His Father before all worlds,** (Jn 1:2)  
**God of God, Light of Light,** (Jn 17:22; Jn 8:12; Jn 1:1)  
**very God of very God,** (Col 2:9) **begotten, not made,** (Jn 1:2)  
**being of one substance with the Father,** (Jn 10:30)  
**by whom all things were made;** (Heb 1:2; Jn 1:3)  
**who for us men and for our salvation** (1 Tim 2:4; Rom 3:23)  
**came down from heaven** (Jn 6:41; Lk 15:20)  
**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary** (Lk 1:34-35)  
**and was made man;** (Jn 1:14)  
**and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.** (Mk 15:25; Jn 19:16-18)  
**He suffered and was buried.** (Jn 19:1-3; Lk 23:53)  
**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures** (1 Cor 15:4; Lk 24:6)  
**and ascended into heaven** (Acts 1:9)  
**and sits at the right hand of the Father.** (Acts 7:55)  
**And He will come again with glory** (Mt 26:64)  
**to judge both the living and the dead,** (Acts 10:42; Mt 3:12)  
**whose kingdom will have no end.** (2 Pt 1:11)

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,** (Jn 14:26; Gen 1:2; Acts 2:38)  
**the Lord and giver of life,** (Gen 1:2; Jn 3:6)  
**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,** (Jn 15:26)  
**who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,** (Mt 3:16-17)  
**who spoke by the prophets.** (Eze 11:5)

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,** (1 Pt 2:5; Eph 2:19-22)  
**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,** (Eph 4:5)  
**and I look for the resurrection of the dead** (1 Cor 15:35-49; 1 Thess 4:13-18)  
**and the life** † **of the world to come.** (Mk 10:29-30; Mt 10:40-42)

**Amen.** (Ps 106:48)

*Us men* means all people.*Christian:* the ancient text reads “catholic,” meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*After each petition of the prayer:*

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*For comfort, health, and recovery:* **Maudine Andrews, Kelly East, Kim Hill, Carmen Hunn, James Junkans, Anita Martin, Judy Monroe, Alicia Niemann, Rick Sawyer, Gary Stoeckmann, Donny Thomas, Leslie Thomas, Nikki Vines;**

*For those who mourn:* **the family and friends of Jeanette Martin;**

*For those who are ill or distressed:* **Stan Acey, Jenalee Adams, Layne Bagley, Shirley Bagley, W.L. Bagley, Sarah Bowman, Mimi Bradley, Deloris Brent, Martha Brown, Nathan Brown, Hunter Burkhalter, Tina Burke, Wayne Burke, Bobby Carroll, James E. Cookston, Joan Cowards, Belinda Cowards-Gonzales, Robert (Andy) Evers, Marie Ferderer & Tahlia, Randy Fowler, Parker Haines, Dan Hansen, Paul Hansen, Tim Hansen, Valerie Henderson, Sharon Holleman, Beth Jarratt, Joslyn Jones, Steve Kennedy, John Koster, Katelyn Lawing, Paul McCullough, Jerry McIntyre, Edlia Miller, Elaine Monaghan, Don Ochs, Mildred Odom, Deborah-Annette Ried, Jon Sandberg, Noah Schultz, Jonnie Pearl Smiley, Bob Smith, Sherri Smith, Deborah Springer, Leonard Watson, Dana Weaver, Cynthia Widlitze, Carol Wright, Jimmy Wright, Marshall Wright, Barbara Zeigler;**

*For college and graduate students:* **Sara Fields, Will Nelson;**

*For military servants and their families:* **Gabriel Escude, James (Glen) Hansford, Holden Hathcock, William Nelson, Steven Tatum, John Weidner Jr.;**

*For foreign missionaries:* **especially Rev. Vance & Linda Becker;**

*This week's prayer family:* **Joshua & Rachel Landrum** and their loved ones.

*Please be seated*

## **OFFERING**

*Please stand*

OFFERTORY

*Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the




courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.


# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

## PREFACE


*2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]*



**P** The Lord be with you.



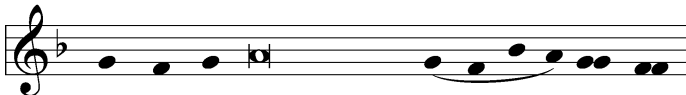
**C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



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



Heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

**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 and forever.

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** 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.

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

*Matthew 26:26–28*

**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.”

**PAX DOMINI**

*John 20:19*

**P** The peace ✠ of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

**AGNUS DEI**

*John 1:29*



**C** 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.



## DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

*All who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and have introduced themselves to the pastor are welcome to partake of the Holy Communion at Christ Lutheran. If you have not spoken to the pastor, but would like to receive the Lord's blessing, you may still come to the rail and kneel, crossing one arm over the other in the shape of an 'X'. This symbolizes that one is marked by the cross and Triune name of Almighty God.*

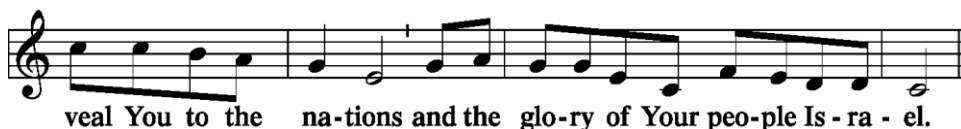
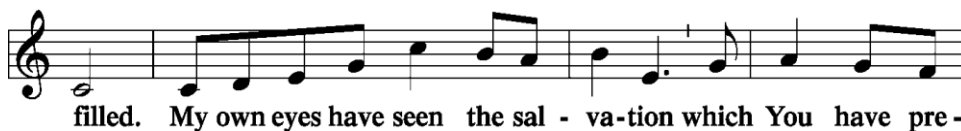
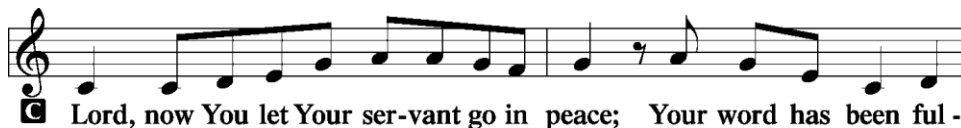
## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

<b>Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered</b>	<b>#404</b>
<b>Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters</b>	<b>#598</b>
<b>The Only Son from Heaven</b>	<b>#402</b>

*Please stand following distribution of communion*

## NUNC DIMITTIS

*Luke 2:29-32*





as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

### POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**A** Let us pray.

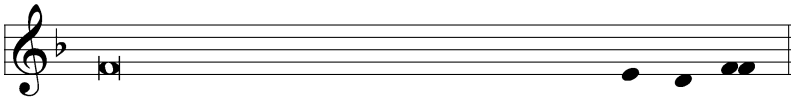
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

### BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24–26*



**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** A - men.

### CLOSING HYMN

### What Wondrous Love Is This

#543

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**Serving Today:**

**Celebrant:** Rev. George Fields

**Cantor:** Natalie Rudsenske

**Interpreter:** Denee Smith

**Elder:** Eric Held

**Organist:** Sr. Sara Fields

**Altar Guild:** Mary Atchley

**Thank you** to all who worshipped, made music, listened, and de-decorated yesterday! We had a busy and festive morning, and it was a lovely reminder of God’s rich and abundant blessings among us, especially as we begin this new year.

**Altar Flower Sign-Up:** Sign up for the new year! Flowers have a long history of adorning the Lord’s altar, and you can help to continue this beautiful tradition. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

**Squirrel Appreciation Day – January 21:** No, it’s not a church holiday... but we consider it a bit of a “saint’s day” here at Christ Lutheran. If you don’t know, ask someone who does; and if you know, send Pastor Holowach a card!

**Readings for next Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, the Second Sunday after Epiphany:**

Introit Ps. 40:1-5; Psalm 139:1-10; 1 Samuel 3:1-10; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51.

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*This week at Christ Lutheran Church: January 8 – January 14*

<b>Monday</b>	<b>6:15 p.m.</b>	Elders Meeting
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>6:15 p.m.</b>	Council Meeting
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Quilting
<b>Friday</b>	<b>6:30 a.m.</b>	Bible & Breaky
	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Quilting
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Sunday School for all ages
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Divine Service – The Second Sunday of Epiphany</b>



# Issues, Etc.™

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