

My
Be
lo
ved...

Listen
to
Him



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 15, 2023

Prelude

Entrance Hymn

449



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Greeting

P: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

A: Arise, shine, for our Light has come!

C: And the glory of the Lord has come upon us.

A: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C: The light no darkness can overcome.

A: He comes to us;

C: We who are not wise.

A: He comes to us;

C: We who are not powerful

A: Arise, shine, for our Light has come!

C: And the glory of the Lord has come upon us.

Hymn of Praise

308 (vs. 1 & 3)



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

C: Father in heaven, as you proclaimed Jesus to be your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit at His baptism.

In the same way, you have also claimed and anointed us. So, inspire and guide us to be faithful children, reflecting in this age our embrace of our promised inheritance of eternal life in the next that is guaranteed by the Water and the Word.

We ask this through Him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Lesson

Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.



The voice of the LORD is up - on the wa - ters.

*Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.*

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor. R**

*The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.*

**The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

*The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.*

**He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox. R**

*The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.*

**The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"**

*The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.*

**May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace! R**

Second Lesson

Acts 19

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?"

They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

Then he said, "Into what, then, were you baptized?"

They answered, "Into John's baptism."

Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied-- altogether there were about twelve of them.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God!

Verse

Refrain (sing twice)



Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet And a light un-to my path.



1. When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way. Still, You're there right be-



side me. And no-thing will I fear As long as You are near;



Please be near me to the end. *(to refrain)*



2. I will not for-get Your love for me and yet, My heart for-ev-er is



wan-der-ing. Je-sus be my guide, And hold me to Your side, And



I will love you to the end. *(to refrain)*

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the Third Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee . . . the empowering word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. And John went out into the region around the Jordan river, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the liberation from sins - as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be humbled,

and the crooked will be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh will see the salvation of God."

He then said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You 'Spawn of vipers!' Who warned you to escape from the coming punishment? *Since you now know what is happening*, bear fruits axiomatic of a radical reorientation *back toward God*. Do not begin to say in yourselves, 'We have as a Father, Abraham,' for I tell you, God is empowered from these stones to raise up children of Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree, therefore, that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"

In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none and whoever has food must do likewise!"

Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you!"

Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?"

He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation and be satisfied with your wages!"

But the people were filled with expectation, and all were dialoging in their hearts about John, whether he might be the Christ.

John responded to their uncertainty 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. 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."

With all of this, then, and even more, John was exhorting and evangelizing the people. But, Herod, the King of the Jews, who had

been reproved by John because of Herodias, his brother's wife (whom he had taken as a wife, as well), and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.

And a voice sounded from heaven, "You, you are my Son, the Beloved; in you there is delight."

Sermon & Hymn of the Day

[tune: ELW 511]

1. Christ, your footprints through the desert
Led to Jordan's flowing stream.
There you heard the herald crying
Israel's old, prophetic dream:
"He is coming! He is coming!
He will cleanse the earth with flame!
Sinners, plunge beneath the waters!
Wash away your guilt and shame!"

2. Christ, you heard the stirring summons
As by Jordan's bank you stood;
Bathed, though sinless, with your people
In the river's cleansing flood.
High above, the heavens opened;
Came the Spirit as a dove;
Spoke a Voice beyond all hearing:
"See my Son, the One I love!"

3. Son of God, the road from Jordan
Led at last to Calv'ry's hill.
There upon the cross forsaken,
You fulfilled the Father's will.
Lamb of God, we see you dying,
Sinless, yet for sinners slain.
But where death rose up to triumph,
You began your glorious reign!

4. God, in baptism you have made us
One with Christ, our risen Lord;
Freed us, claimed us, cleansed,
forgiven
Through the water and the Word.
Help us hear your urgent summons,
Calling us to serve you now.
Send us forth, your sons and daughters,
With the cross upon our brow.

Affirmation of Baptism

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 God thanks and praise

[Tune ELW 696]

1. Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the Spirit's breath,
First to witness day's beginning from the brightness of night's death.
2. Parting water stood and trembled as the captives pass on through,
Washing off the chains of bondage—channel to a life made new.
3. Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the one foretold,
Opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.

4. Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul.

Well-spring, source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.

P: We give you thanks, O Lord, for your Spirit moved over the chaos of the waters at the beginning of all things and with your voice you spoke land and life from its deeps. Later, you returned the waters to purify the land and all life from evil, giving Noah and the passengers on his Ark the promise of never using water to bring death again. This promise was then fulfilled for your people Israel when, facing death at the hands of Pharaoh, you opened the Reed Sea for their escape to new life in the Promised Land. Then in waters of the Jordan, you brought eternal life to all through the empowerment of Jesus as the Savior who calls us into the water, to drown the old self bound in death and emerge signed and sealed forever as your child in whom you will always delight. In joyful remembrance of our own baptisms, we give You thanks for this moment of your promise intersecting our lives and ask that you renew the stirring of the Spirit within us that we will live ever more faithfully as your chosen people.

P: You will sprinkle me, O Lord, with hyssop

C: and I will be cleansed.

P: You will wash me,

C: and I will be washed more purer than snow. Pity me, O God, according to Thy great mercy.

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?

C: We do with the help of God.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived of 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?

C: 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 of the Church

Passing of the Peace & Offering

1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.

We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
 What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
 Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray:

C: Accept, O Lord, these gifts that we bring in gratitude this day; offerings from the abundant blessings we have received. May they be pleasing in your sight, that you will continue to look kindly on us and our needs, and that they may serve the need of manifesting your Kingdom in this age. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

S 144a

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.



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.

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

Distribution Hymns

423, 396



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



Refrain

Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv - er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv - er;



gath-er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

*Refrain*

Spir - it, Spir - it of gen-tle-ness, blow through the wil-der-ness



call-ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest-less-ness,



stir me from plac-id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an-cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
 and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
 then you whis-pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
 From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:
 and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
 and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
 our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



Refrain

“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”
 then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
 when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
 With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo-ple a - rise.

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

Benediction

Recessional

451



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



that as Christ is 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



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
 in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
 in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Dismissal