

# *Baptism of Our Lord*

*January 8, 2023*



## *Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)*

*10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134*

*“Celebrating and sharing God’s Love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others”*

*Worship 9:00 a.m.*

*Bold type indicates Congregational responses*

Our color for this season is white, calling to mind the purity of the newborn Christ, and to our light and joy in him.

### ***Introduction***

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God’s beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God’s healing.

### ***Prelude***

### ***Announcements***

### ***Ringling of the Bell***

***\*Gathering Song: “Crashing Waters at Creation” ..... ELW 455***

**\*Greeting**

P: 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.**

**\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

*A reading from the Psalms:* The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace. (*Psalms 29:3, 11*)

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life,  
you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.

Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.

You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters:

Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock.

Naaman washes his leprosy away,

and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word  
that saves us in this sacrament.

Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.

Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.

Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise**

*All*



1. Your can - o - py of vig - il lights, each  
 2. (You) walk with us a - long the way, your  
 3. (Re) - freshed by sab - bath rest this day, a -



star your hand has set in place, be - stows a bless - ing  
 Word, a lamp to pil - grim feet; stay with us now for  
 wak - en us to your sha - lom: the reign of Christ's un -



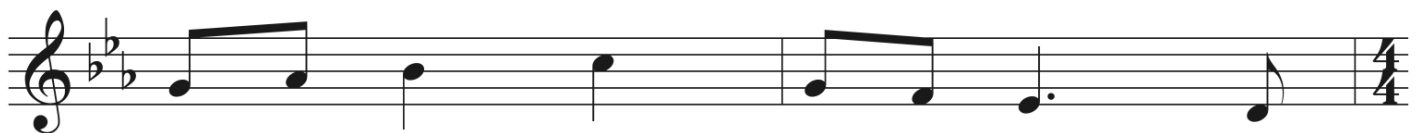
on our life, and all cre - a - tion sings your  
 each new day, our un - known guest, our host and  
 fail - ing way, where peace and jus - tice are at



praise. You formed the moon and fired the sun, you  
 feast. Grant those who share this ho - ly meal the  
 home and saints need nei - ther moon nor sun to



quick - ened dust with ho - ly - breath, and  
 faith and vi - sion to be - lieve that  
 sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly, O



bind - ing us to your dear Son, re -  
 hearts might see what eyes con - ceal: by  
 mer - ci - ful, im - mor - tal One, O



newed our life, de - stroyed our death. 2. You  
 grace your pres - ence we re - ceive. 3. Re  
 bless - ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty.

***\*Prayer of the Day***

L: Let us pray.

**O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**Choir Anthem "The Journey" ...../Lloyd Larson**

***First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9***

L: 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.  
Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43***

L: Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

**\*Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children’s Sermon** ..... Rev. Becky Sells

**Sermon** ..... Rev. Becky Sells

**Hymn of the Day: “When Jesus Came to Jordan”** ..... ELW 305

### ***\*The Apostles' Creed***

L: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.**

### ***\*Prayers of Intercession***

L: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Calling God, you speak with power to your church. Open our hearts and minds to the new things you are declaring. Strengthen bishops, pastors, deacons, lay leaders, and teachers of the faith. Equip the baptized for your reconciling and redeeming work.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, you provide the waters of the earth and in Jesus' baptism you reveal the waters of life. Cleanse and protect oceans, rivers, and watersheds. Bring relief to parched lands and to communities without access to safe water. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you never weary of establishing justice. Increase cooperation and constructive dialogue between nations. Guide local, national, and international authorities to govern with equity, vision, and integrity. We pray for those in military service, for peacemakers, and for our enemies. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Abiding God, your mercy is steadfast. Give sanctuary to people who flee from oppression, war, poverty, and famine. Sustain health care workers, caregivers, first responders, counselors, and all who help and heal. Comfort those who are grieving or experiencing crisis. We especially pray for those on our prayer lists and the names of those we hold and lift up to you in our hearts now... Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Blessing God, in Christ you gather the beloved community. Kindle the gifts of your Spirit in your people. Accompany the newly baptized, those recently ordained, and any beginning a new ministry. Inspire synodical leaders and congregational councils to serve with imagination and wisdom. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Promising God, your faithfulness endures throughout all generations. We give thanks for those who have died in Christ, trusting that we will be united with them and all the saints in Christ's resurrection life. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.  
**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

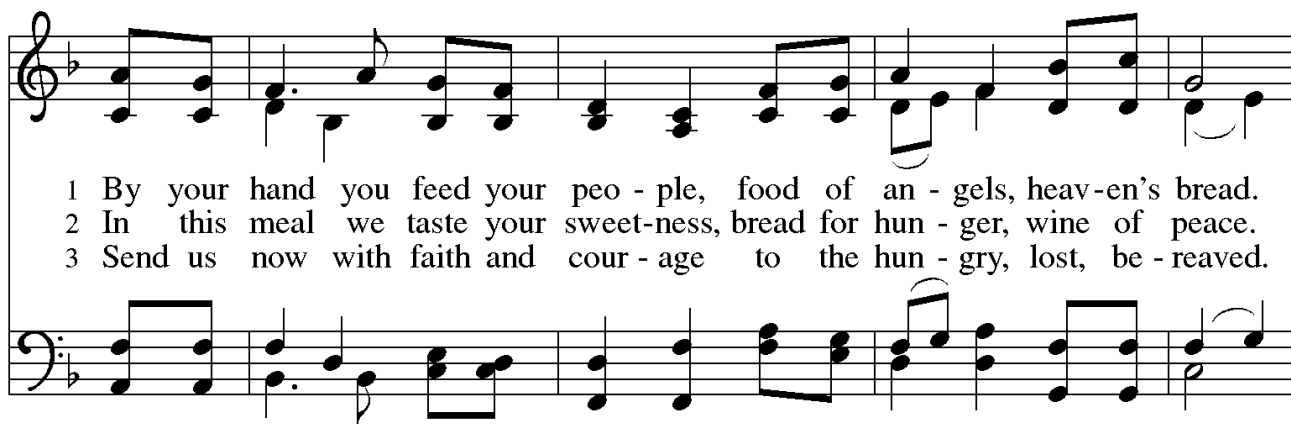
### ***Offering***

L: We are called to reflect on how we are giving back to God for all the blessings God has given us. This includes continuing to financially support the church and its mission, along with considering how we might be called to give and use our time and talents to further God's kingdom here on earth.

*Gifts may be placed in the offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary or may be given electronically at [www.lord-of-love.org](http://www.lord-of-love.org). Children may come forward to put their offering in the noise jar.*



## Offertory

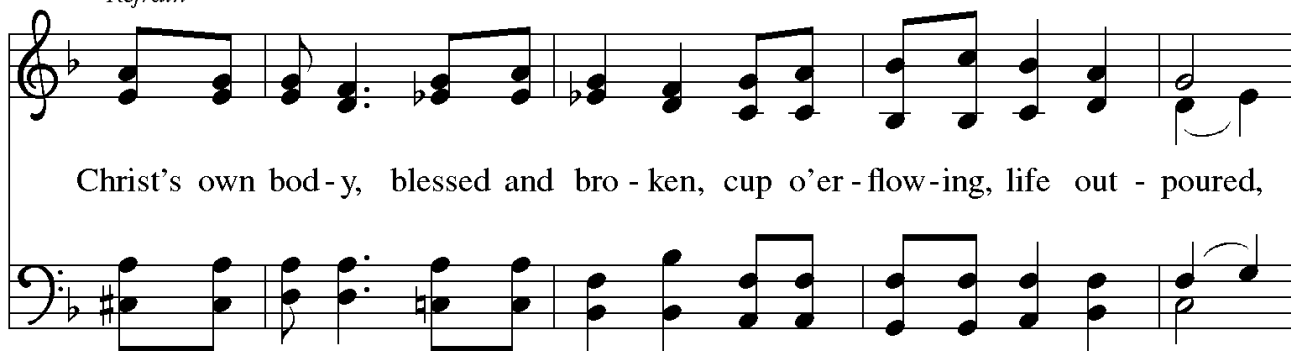


1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.  
2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.  
3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.

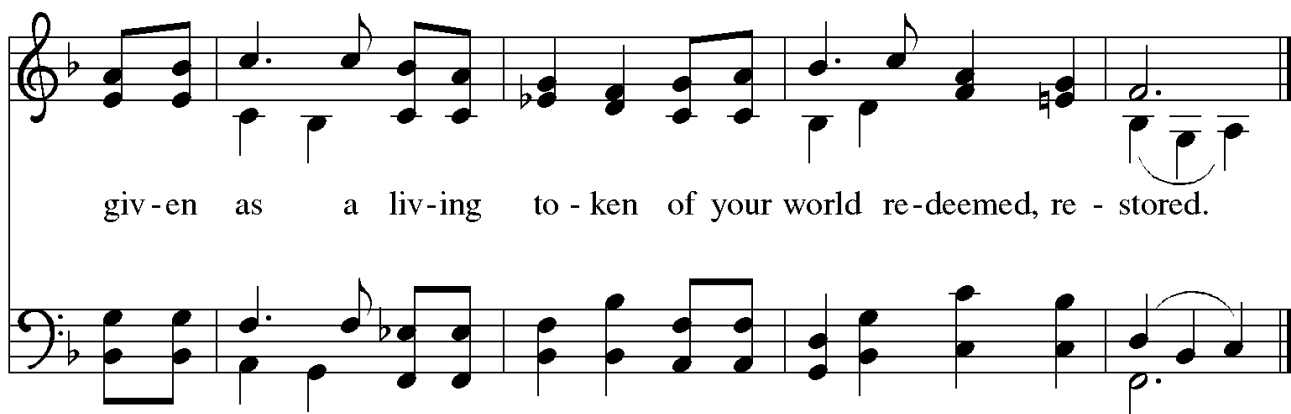


For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:  
Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.  
In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:

### *Refrain*



Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,



giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

**\*Offertory Prayer**

P: Let us pray.

**We bless you, O God, gracious and merciful; you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger that all may know your care. Prepare us now to feast upon your mercy: Jesus Christ, the bread of life.**

**Amen.**

**\*The Great Thanksgiving**

*Presider* *All*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Presider* *All*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Presider*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All*

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### ***\*Words of Institution***

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell, with every breath. Generations bless your faithfulness: through the waters, across the wilderness, by night and day, out of exile, into the future. We give you thanks for your Son: at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now.

On the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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 remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering, upon this bread, within this cup, among your people, throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, Holy God, for your mercy, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your Church, without end.  
**Amen.**

### ***\*The Lord's Prayer***

P: Gathered around the table by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### ***Communion Invitation***

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. All are welcome.

## Lamb of God

*All*  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

1., 2.  
world; have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

3.  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion

### **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Creator of our days and nights, we give you thanks for this gift of life. Increase our faith and open our eyes that we might recognize Jesus in all whom you call us to love and serve. Abide with us when we struggle and doubt and be our hope and highest joy, until at last with all your saints we dwell in your unfailing Light.

**Amen.**

### **\*Benediction**

P: Holy God, Blessed Trinity, strengthen your faith, increase your hope, deepen your love, ✠ and give you peace this day and always.

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Song: "Every Time I Feel the Spirit".....ACS 942**

*Refrain*

Ev - 'ry time I \_\_\_\_\_ feel the spir - it \_\_\_\_\_ mov - ing

3 in my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ I will pray. \_\_\_\_\_ Ev - 'ry time I \_\_\_\_\_ feel the

6 spir - it \_\_\_\_\_ mov - ing in my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ I will pray.

9

1. Up-on the moun-tain my \_\_\_\_\_ Lord spoke, out of his mouth came \_\_\_\_\_ fire and smoke. All a -  
 2. Jor-dan riv - er, chil-ly and cold, chills the bod - y \_\_\_\_\_ but not the soul. Ain't but

*To Refrain*

14

round me looked so fine. asked \_\_\_\_\_ my Lord \_\_\_\_\_ if all was mine.  
 one train on this track runs to heav - en \_\_\_\_\_ and right back.

**\*Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God!**

***Ringing of the Bell***

***Postlude***

**Every Time I Feel the Spirit**

Text: African American spiritual

Music: PENTECOST, African American spiritual; arr. Melva W. Costen, b. 1933

Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**Unfailing Light Liturgy**

By Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

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Music © 2004 by GIA Publications, Inc.

**By Your Hand You Feed Your People**

Text: Susan R. Briehl

Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen

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