

# *Baptism of Our Lord*

*January 7, 2024*



*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.*

## ***Introduction***

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

## ***Prelude***

## ***Announcements***

## ***Ring of the Bell***

**\*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**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

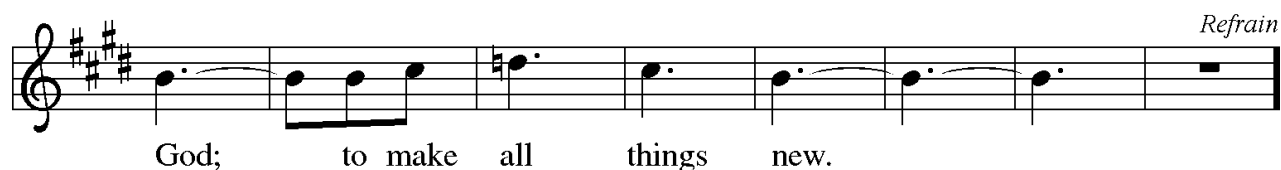
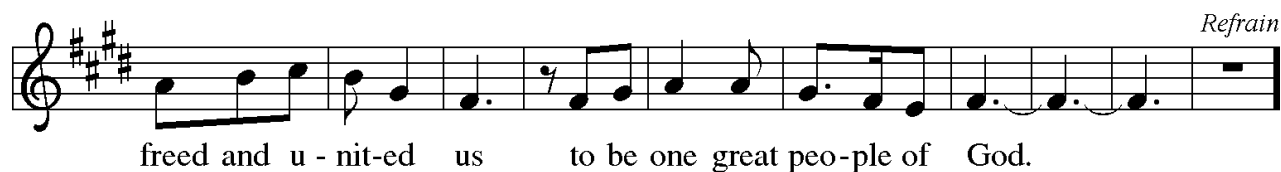
**Amen.**

**\*Now the Feast**

*Refrain*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion  
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;  
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain. The second staff contains the melody for the second line. The third staff contains the melody for the third line, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes.



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

L: Let us pray.

**Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, 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 "Blessed Is the Lord (Benedictus)"..... Dan Forrest**

**First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5**

L: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7**

L: 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

*Congregation:*

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

**\*Gospel: Mark 1:4-11**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 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 just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 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** ..... Rev. Joyce Miller

**Sermon** ..... Rev. Joyce Miller

**Hymn of the Day: "Down Galilee's Slow Roadways"** ..... ACS 916



1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on  
 2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;  
 3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.  
 it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.  
 We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,  
 The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:  
 But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.



but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.  
 "You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."  
 "You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

### ***\*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: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and

detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering. We remember before you those on our prayer list and the names of those we lift up to you in our hearts now...God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

### **\*Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please share signs of peace with one another.*

*Please be seated.*

### **Offering**

*If you wish to give an offering, you may place it in the offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary or give 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 during this song.*

*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

P: Let us pray.

**God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **\*The Great Thanksgiving**



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 God thanks and praise.



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***\*Holy, Holy, Holy***

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***\*Words of Institution***

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 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.

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

P: Gathered into one 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: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

## ***Lamb of God***



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

## ***Communion***

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

P: Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

# **\*Benediction**

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

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

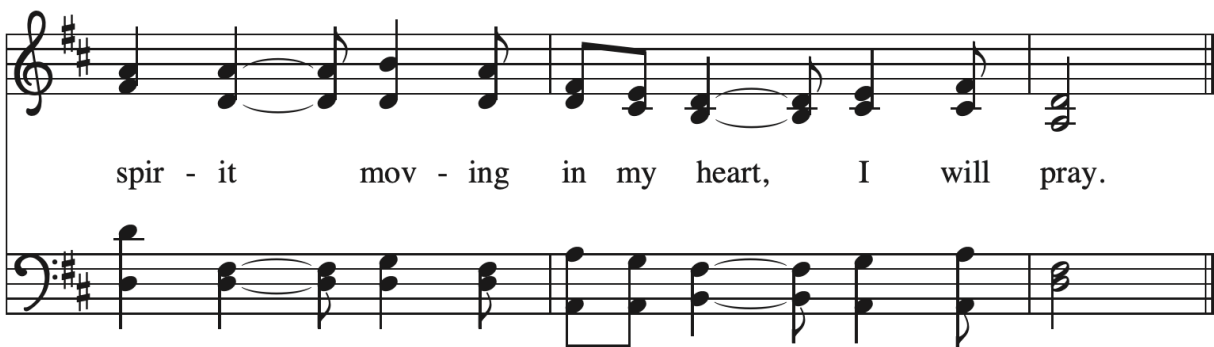
*Refrain*



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



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

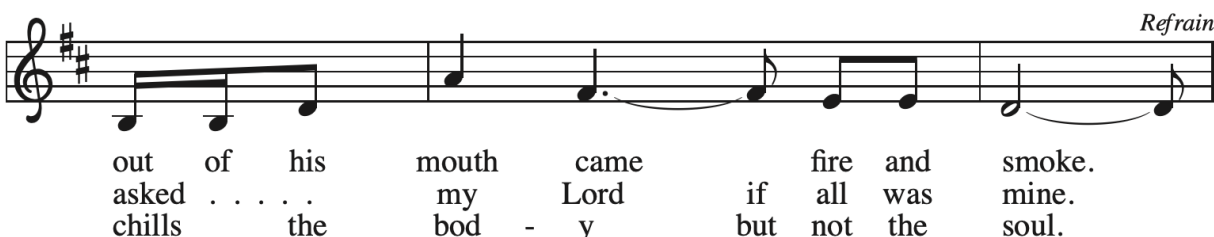


spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.



1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,  
2 . . All a - round me looked so fine,  
3 . . Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

*Refrain*



out of his mouth came fire and smoke.  
asked . . . . my Lord if all was mine.  
chills the bod - y but not the soul.

### ***\*Dismissal***

L: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.  
**Thanks be to God!**

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

### ***Postlude***

### **Down Galilee's Slow Roadways**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

### **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

### **Now the Feast and Celebration Liturgy**

Text and Music: Marty Haugen

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