

**Sunday, January 7,
2024
Baptism of Our Lord,
First Sunday after
Epiphany**



*Centering Time
Hymn ELW 283*

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing
O come let us adore him O come, let us adore him, O come let us
adore him, Christ the Lord!

Announcements

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the land (Leah or Rayna, do you have a copy of this for the first Sunday of the month?)

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 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.

Gathering Hymn O Come All Ye Faithful ELW 283 (vss. 1,4)

¹ O come, all ye faithful joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him born the king of angels:

CHORUS O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O
come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

⁴ Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born that happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory give'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
CHORUS

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and
light, word of truth, the Spirit sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

**We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.**

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us,

that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken: the time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Children's Message

Jesus Come!

ELW 312

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much of chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while the Spirit from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7 (to be read responsively)

As written in Acts, while in Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He 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."

³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?"

They answered, “Into John’s baptism.”

⁴Paul 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.”

⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—

⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-11

Mark’s gospel reports the story of Jesus’ baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

³The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Sermon

“For All Time”

Pastor Rebecca

Hymn of the Day Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! 413

¹Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

²Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

³Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

⁴Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Prayers of Intercession

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 forgiveness in your church. 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 (*especially*).
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

Offering The Shepherd's Echo Carol Sanctuary Choir

Offertory Let us Talents and Tongues Employ ELW 674

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.

Amen.

**The Great Thanksgiving
Words of Institution
The Lord's Prayer
Communion Music**

Lamb of God	ELW 195
Let us Break Bread Together	ELW 471
Now the Silence	ELW 460

Blessing of the Meal

Prayer after Communion

Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

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

Amen.

Closing Hymn Come Join the Dance of Trinity ELW 412

(vss. 1,2,4)

¹Come, join the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun
the interweaving of the Three, the Father, Spirit, Son.
The universe of space and time did not arise by chance,
but as the Three, in love and hope, made room within their
dance.

²Come, see the face of Trinity, newborn in Bethlehem;
then bloodied by a crown of thorns outside Jerusalem.
The dance of Trinity is meant for human flesh and bone;

when fear confines the dance in death, God rolls away the stone.

⁴Within the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun, we sing the praises of the Three, the Father, Spirit, Son.

Let voices rise and interweave, by love and hope set free,
to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trinity.

Invitation to Service

Let us greet one another with kindness and go out into the world bringing peace as God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray, ask for help, be kind, fulfill a need, forgive, and give thanks.



In Joy! The Christ is born!

Comfort for Loss

Evy Keena for her brother Einar Mattson.

Steve Sommers for his sister Sue Sommers.

Sara & Kelli Lassig for their grandmother Dorothy Lassig (age 100).

Gerry Schuler for her friend Carol Swanson.

Continued prayers to comfort for families grieving for Sig, Lucy, Dale, Eleanore, Dave, Fritz, Ev, Donna, Dwayne, Pam, Doreen and Mary.

Hospice Care Sally McCartin

Continued healing Les Beaudoin, Audrey Bredeson, David Bower, Bob Hansen, Paul Johnson, Jim Krech, Shawn Krech, Sharon Marcotte, Cindy Mager, Polly Rhode, Deb Schnack, Mark Stagg

Cancer Treatments: David Bower, Marlys Flesland, Daisy Kunde, Polly Rhode, Sharon Roen, Sue Stagg, Ron Tipcke

Good care for people in care centers: Dick Coleman, Dean Houdek, Julie Stapf

Support all pastors, ministers, and clerics that their mental health is protected and they know that they are not alone.

All Saints joins with our sister church in Kipaduka, Tanzania and their evangelist Asifiwe Chengula. We pray for the safety and well-being of all the students and their families: Blaston Mgyaya, Dorikas Longo, Elvin Mdeka, Ezra Medeka, Jakobo Ndolela, Lidia Nosa, Naomi Mtewa, Saraphina Msola, Tulinave Mtewa.

Immigrant children who have been separated from their parents.

Zion Lutheran Church is in a year of transition and discernment. Support their Pastor Steve Biedermann and Council.

Closing Prayer. Almighty God who created the world, help us to know that no matter what we face, You can help us get through it. Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

When you have prayer requests use the Prayer Request form on the church's website allsaintscg.org/care-ceremonies or leave a message with Prayer Chain coordinator Joan Axdal at 651-270-5111.