



Sunday, January 12, 2024

First Sunday after Epiphany- Baptism of Our Lord

Theme of the Day:

Epiphany Moments: Baptism is the Cure For an Identity Crisis

Congregation sings or speaks the bolded text

383 The Only Son from Heaven

CW 383

Text (sts. 1–3): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.; (sts. 1–3): Elisabeth Cruciger, c. 1500–1535; (st. 4): Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; Tune: Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein, Erfurt, 1524, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand. Sung or spoken?

P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth shall declare your praise.

P: Hasten to save me, O God;

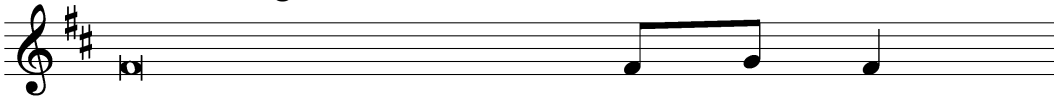
C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.

P: The glory of Christ is revealed:

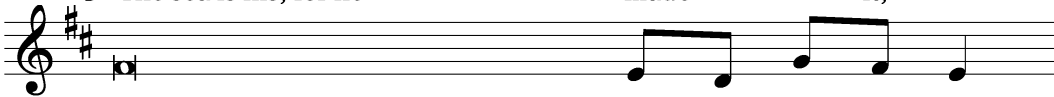
C: praise and thanks to God!

O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

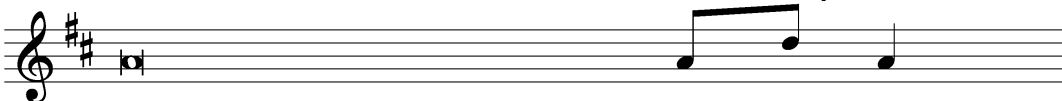
CW 208



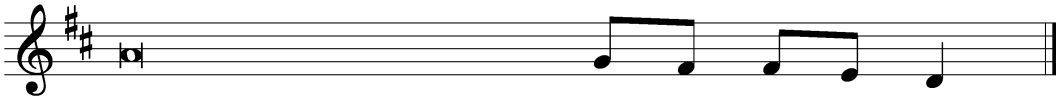
1	O come, let us sing	to	the	Lord,
2	For the Lord is a	great	_____	God
3	The sea is his, for he	made	_____	it,



1	let us make a joyful noise to the rock of	our	sal - va -	tion.
2	and a great	king	a - bove	all gods.
3	and his hand	formed	the dry	_____ land.



1	Let us come into his presence with thanks	-	giv	-	ing,
2	The deep places of the earth are	in	his	hand;	
3	O come, let us worship and	bow	_____	down,	
4	For he	is	our	God,	



1 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.
2 the heights of the hills are al - so his.
3 let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er.
4 and we are the people of his
pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Please be seated.

2D Great Are the Works of the LORD

Psalm 2D

Refrain



Great are the works of the LORD. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! Great are the works of the LORD.

Why do the nations / conspire

and the peoples / plot in vain?

The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together a - / gainst the LORD

and against his A - / nointed. *Refrain*

The One enthroned in / heaven laughs;

the Lord / scoffs at them.

He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, / saying,

“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy / mountain.” *Refrain*

I will proclaim the / LORD's decree:

He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your / Father.”

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. *Refrain*

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer Tune: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714016

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1–13

David was the youngest of eight brothers and a shepherd. Yet, at his anointing, the Lord declared his true identity—future king of Israel.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.” ²But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.” The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.” ⁴Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?” ⁵Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.” ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.” ⁹Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.” ¹¹So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.” ¹²So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.” ¹³So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Titus 3:4–7

In the eyes of the world, baptism appears to be just a religious ceremony. St. Paul explains baptism is so much more—a second birth that gives you the identity of God’s child and heir.

⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

P: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Luke 3:15–17,21-22

People wondered if John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was a powerful preacher who lived a unique life. But at his baptism, Jesus was identified by his Father as the Anointed One.

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ²¹When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Children's Lesson

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

378 To Jordan Came the Christ Our Lord

CW 378

Text: tr. Elizabeth Quiltmeyer, 1911–1988, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr. Tune: Geistliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter Text: © 1976 Elizabeth Quiltmeyer. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714016 Tune: Public domain

Sermon Text

John 1:1–18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. ¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ ”) ¹⁶Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Sermon Theme: The Word Became Flesh!

Please stand or remain seated for the hymn?

679 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

CW 679

Text: tr. Robert E. Voelker, b. 1957; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756 Tune: Johann Caspar Bachofen, 1695–1755, alt. Text: © 1991 Robert E. Voelker. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714016 Tune: Public domain

Please be seated.

Offering

Friendship Registration

Guests: Please fill out name, address, and phone number.

Members: Please fill out name and any new information.

Please, return the booklet to its original location. Thank you!

Please stand.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 213



Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and an-swer me.



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

All: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

P: Let us praise the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Blessing

P: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

692 All Who Believe and Are Baptized

CW 692

Text: tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.; Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703 Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, Wittenberg, 1524 Text and tune: Public domain. **Acknowledgments:** Morning Prayer from Christian Worship Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.



Announcements

WELCOME! Thank you for joining our Trinity family in worship today. We invite you to keep growing with us through God's Word and Sacraments. If you have a question, please speak to a pastor or a Trinity member. If you are a guest, please pick up a guest packet and give your name and address in the friendship registration located in each pew. Ask the ushers if you need a pocket-sized aid for the hearing impaired. Large print bulletins are available upon request, with the Hymns for the service printed in them. A Nursery with our service on TV is located off the lobby for parents who need to calm young children.

CHILDREN'S LESSON: Please encourage your children in the Pre-school through 4th grade to come quietly to the front when invited.

RECESS VOLUNTEER a recess volunteer for the school is needed on Wednesdays starting NOW. The time slot would be from 12:15-12:45. Please contact the office or Mr. Falck if you are able to help out!

POWER POINT PRESENTER There is an opening for 2nd service for a Power Point Presenter. Please contact Pastor Nowak if you are interested in filling in the vacancy and/or for more details.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2025 are available in the Narthex. Pick them up at your earliest convenience! If you are not able to find your envelopes or have any questions, please contact Bob Inniger at 567-674-6049.

BIBLE STUDY FOR JANUARY: Starting next week, we will begin our study of 1 Corinthians. Corinth was a divided and struggling congregation in a challenging place. As we examine the struggles of this congregation, we will apply them to our lives and the everyday struggles of living in America today. As we will see our study in the Lord will not be in vain as he teaches and strengthens us today.

WARM WINTER WALKING: The school gym is open for walking on week nights between 7:00-8:00 PM. Please bring a pair of shoes that you haven't worn outside to wear while walking. You may walk at your own pace and walk as long or short as you want. Bring a friend!

LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION OF OHIO (LSGOO) To date, we have been able to provide over \$10,000 in scholarships from this program to school families needing additional assistance. If you are not taking advantage of this excellent opportunity to direct a portion of your Ohio tax liability directly to our school's ministry, please check out www.lsgoohio.org or talk to Mr. Falck. Remember: Up to \$750/individual or \$1500/filing jointly can be directed to this program with a one-time or recurring payment!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY: Women are invited to an afternoon of Bunco on Sunday, January 19 starting at 2:00 PM at Dawn Curth's house (303 East Sandusky St. Jenera). Bunco is a fun and easy dice game in which players simply roll dice to score points. It's a social game that's based on luck , so there's no need to learn a complex strategy. Ladies will sit at small tables and switch seats throughout the game. This is a great chance to meet and talk with other many other women! No experience necessary! Snacks will be provided. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of church if you plan to attend.

OPEN GYM: The school's gym will be available for those wanting to play basketball indoors on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 - 4:00 PM. All children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Please change into dry, non-marking athletic shoes before entering the gym to help keep our gym floor in good condition.

PRESCHOOL PLAYTIME: Do your kids need a warm place to get some energy out? Join us for a FREE open gym for all preschool aged children (infants, toddlers, and preschoolers) in the school gym on Monday, January 13 from 10:00-11:00 AM. We will have balls to play with, ride-on toys, mats to crawl/roll around on, mini-trampolines, infant toys, large building blocks, and lots of space to run around and play. Grab a snack for your ride home.

DISCOVERY STORY: The Hancock County Parks is coming for its next Discovery Story on Wednesday, January 15 at 10:00 AM in the church basement. Have you ever looked closely at bird feet? They come in many different shapes and sizes, and they help birds do important jobs. Join us in the church basement with your toddler, preschoolers, and kindergartners as we take a closer look at actual bird feet. Stay after the program for crafts and other activities. Please email Jenny at mwmtrinity@tlcjenera.org if you plan to attend.

LUTHER SOCIETY We plan to go to lunch and then axe throwing at Axe Venture in Findlay, on Sunday, January 19th. Mark your calendars! Please text Kathy Miles 419-348-3075 by January 13th if you would like to join us as we need to make a reservation. Feel free to bring a friend.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT is scheduled for Sunday, January 21 at the school from 3:30-7:00 PM. You can come at anytime to play games. Bring along your favorite board/card games. Supper will be served at 5:00. Chicken sandwiches and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. The gym will also be available for kids to play. Please sign up on the sheet in back of church if you plan to come.

THE ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING will be held on January 29th at 7:00pm. Voters – now is your opportunity to have your voices heard! All voters are encouraged to attend. Voters consist of male communicant members who have reached the age of 18. The Lord has called men to be the leaders for the congregational team. Your service as a voter is wanted and needed by your Lord and your church. Everyone is welcome including the women of the church regardless of voter status. If you have anything for the agenda, please send it to Courtney Breitigam or Pastor Nowak by January 22nd.

SAVE THE DATE:

March 5th- Ash Wednesday Service

March 15th- Mudhen Circuit Euchre Tournament

April 20th- Easter Sunday

May 4th- Confirmation

LENTEN MEALS Lent begins on March 5th with Ash Wednesday at 7:00pm and will be on Wednesdays at 7:00pm through April 9th. Please sign up at the table doors if you are willing to help out with Lenten Meals or contact Pastor Nowak or the office.

DAILY LECTIONARY

1.12: Ez 34:1-24, Rom 3:19-31

1.13: Ez 36:13-28, Rom 4:1-25

1.14: Ez 36:33-37:14, Rom 5:1-21

1.15: Ez 37:15-28, Rom 6:1-23

1.16: Ez 38:1-23, Rom 7:1-20

1.17: Ez 39:1-10, 17-29, Rom 7:21-8:17;

1.18: Ez 40:1-4; 43:1-12, *Ez 40:5-42:20; 43:13-27*, Rom 8:18-39

1.19: Ez 44:1-16, 23-29, Rom 9:1-18

WELS TOPIC Question & Answer: About Baptism

Must an infant be baptized to go to heaven?

As Jesus instituted Baptism, your question addresses children in New Testament times only. The Bible is silent on the fate of children who die without the benefit of Baptism. What the Bible does say is that Christian faith saves but unbelief—not the lack of Baptism—condemns. Jesus said, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16).

We speak of Baptism being necessary in the sense that Jesus instructs us to administer it. Baptism is not absolutely necessary in that the Holy Spirit can create faith through the word of God alone.

Can God work faith in children apart from Baptism? Certainly. Since conversion is God’s gracious, powerful work in people’s hearts, God can create faith through the word of God alone or through the word of God connected to an earthly element: Baptism.

Because the Bible instructs us to baptize “all nations” (Matthew 28:19), including children, and speaks of the Holy Spirit working through Baptism (John 3:5-6; Titus 3:5), we bring our children to be baptized. Christian parents follow that up with instruction in God’s word (Matthew 28:20; Ephesians 6:4).

Does a person have to be baptized to go to heaven?

No. Think of all the Old Testament believers who were not baptized—as Baptism had not yet been instituted. Jesus stated that it is the lack of faith, not Baptism, that condemns (Mark 16:16).

We speak of Baptism being necessary in the sense that the Lord commands us to administer it. However, Baptism not absolutely necessary for salvation because the Holy Spirit can bring people to saving faith in Jesus through the gospel in Word alone. In situations like that, people will still want to be baptized—to do what Jesus says and to receive, in addition to the message of the Bible, another guarantee of God’s love and forgiveness in Christ.

Want to see more questions about Baptism? Check out WELS Questions on Baptism it out at www.wels.net/serving-you/wels-topical-qa/baptism.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE (week of January 5th)

Total Worship Attendance: 255, Early: 136, Late: 119; Adult Bible Class: 34; Sunday School: 33; Teen Bible Class: 4; Online Worship Views for Dec. 29th: 51

MONEY COUNTERS for this morning through January 25th are the members of Ron Bower's Undershepherd group. Beginning Sunday, January 26th, will be the members of Brad Inniger's Undershepherd group.

GREETERS today are: Joe & Jean Spaeth – early
Warren Pratt – late

Next Sunday: Josh & Ashley Breitigam – early
Mike & Jill Woodward – late

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY (January 12th through January 19th)

TODAY Worship 8:00 & 10:30; Children's Lesson; Adult Bible Study, Teen Bible Class, Sunday School 9:20; Open Gym 2:00

TUE Worship Committee Meeting 1:00

WED Handbells 6:30; Choir 7:00

SUN **Worship 8:00 & 10:30;** Communion; Adult Bible Study, Teen Bible Class, Sunday School 9:20; Luther's Society Outing after 2nd Service; Open Gym 2:00; Women's Ministry BUNCO 2:00

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Mon Basketball Practice 3:30-5; Board of Ed 7:00

Tue Cheerleading 3:30-4:30

Wed Chapel 8:20; Basketball Practice 3:30-5

Thu Cheerleading 3:30-4:30

Sat Basketball @ St. John's 10:00

Vanco
Mobile
App



OUR MISSION STATEMENT: *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to glorify our Triune God as we train, strengthen and nurture ourselves and others through His Word and Sacraments, so that we are enabled by His love to live lives of faith and to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people.*