

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 8, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

Service of Holy Communion
with Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Prayer before worship:

Everlasting God, fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all through Him who is the true Light and the bright Morning Star, Jesus Christ our Lord, whose Epiphany we celebrate. Amen.

Prelude

“L’Epiphanie” (M. Durufle)

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism

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

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

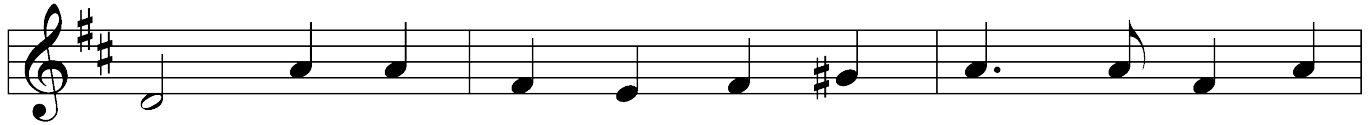
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to be born for you and to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

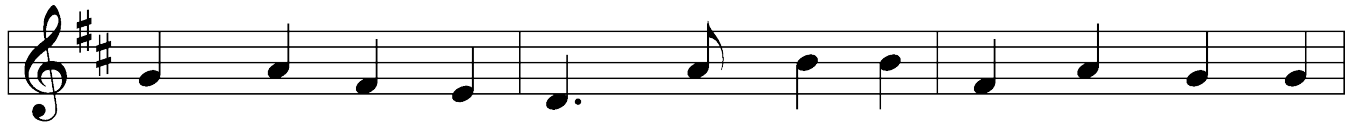
C Amen.

Opening Hymn

“The Star Proclaims the King Is Here” (LSB 399)



1 The star pro - claims the King is here; But, Her - od,
 2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far And fol - lowed
 3 With - in the Jor - dan's sa - cred flood The heav'n - ly
 4 And oh, what mir - a - cle di - vine, When wa - ter
 Δ 5 For this Thy glad e - piph - a - ny All glo - ry,



why this sense - less fear? For He who of - fers heav'n - ly
 on His guid - ing star; And, led by light, to light they
 Lamb in meek - ness stood That He, of whom no sin was
 red - dened in - to wine! He spoke the word, and forth it
 Je - sus, be to Thee, Whom with the Fa - ther we a -



birth Seeks not the king - doms of this earth.
 trod And by their gifts con - fessed their God.
 known, Might cleanse His peo - ple from their own.
 flowed In streams that na - ture ne'er be - stowed.
 dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug. Text and tune: Public domain

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G And also with you.

Opening Dialogue

L In holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

G **We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life.**

L By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ.

G **As we live with Christ and with his people, we grow in faith, love and obedience to the will of God.**

- L** For all who are baptized into Christ and anointed by his Spirit:
- C** **Let our mission and ministry be a light to the nations!**
- L** May almighty God keep us all in the covenant of our Baptism to life eternal!
- C** **Amen. Let it be so.**

Gloria in Excelsis



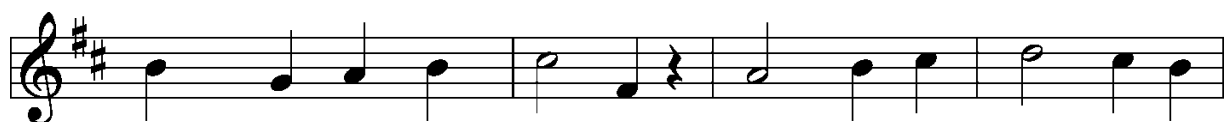
A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we



praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



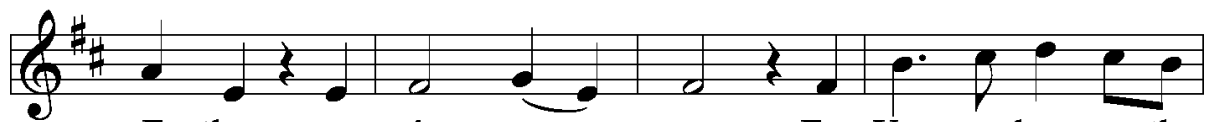
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You



take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa-ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the



Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-

lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray:

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Children's Message

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

^[1] Behold 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. ^[2] He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ^[3] a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ^[4] He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. ^[5] 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 on it and spirit to those who walk in it: ^[6] "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, ^[7] to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ^[8] I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. ^[9] Behold, the former things have

come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody

Psalm 29

L Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

C **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

L The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over many waters.

C **The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

L The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

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

L The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

C **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

L The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth
and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

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

L May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Epistle

Romans 6:1-11

*Please join in reading aloud the highlighted portion of Scripture
and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.*

[1] What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? [2] By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? [3] Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? [4] **We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.** [5] For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. [6] We know that our old

self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ^[7] For one who has died has been set free from sin. ^[8] Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ^[9] We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ^[10] For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ^[11] So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

^[13] Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ^[14] John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ^[15] But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ^[16] And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him, ^[17] and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

"The Sign of Water and the Spirit"

Hymn of the Day

"When Jesus Came to Jordan" (WOV 647)

1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John,
2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;

he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond-age break.

He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,
So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:

to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, b. 1903. Music: English folk tune, adapt, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958. Text © 1980 Hope Publishing Co. Music: © 1906 Oxford University Press.

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows (from the Baptismal font)

- P** Holy Baptism is the means by which our heavenly Father creates new sons and daughters. In the waters of Baptism we are joined to the death and resurrection of our Lord. Born again by water and the Spirit, we are made members of the Body of Christ. Living in fellowship with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love and obedience to the will of God. I call upon you, therefore, to renew the solemn vows and promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced the devil and all his works and ways, and were made members of Christ's Church.
- P** Do you reaffirm your renunciation of all the forces of evil, the devil and all his empty promises?
- G** I do.

- 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 God the Son?
- C** **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.
- 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.**
- P** Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
- C** **I will with God's help.**
- P** Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
- C** **I will with God's help.**
- P** Will you seek to serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
- C** **I will with God's help.**
- P** Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
- C** **I will with God's help.**
- P** Brothers and sisters, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
- C** **We live and serve in the light and love of Christ.**
- P** May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in his grace to life eternal, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P Celebrating God made manifest to all nations, let us pray for all creation, the whole church, and all who are in need.

Today, as we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, we pray especially for all those baptized during 2022:

Gabriella June Partner, Myles Owen Hernandez, Cooper James Immelman, Eliza Catherine Uzl, Isabella Rae Townsend, Daphne Ann Vest

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer.

During the Epiphany season each petition ends with the phrase:

*"Lord, in your mercy." Please respond by saying "**Hear our prayer.**"*

The prayers end with the words:

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting that your mercy is offered freely to all people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying,

"Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

(Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3)

Commissioning of Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

L Let us pray:

Loving God, you sent your only Son to live among us, bringing us your grace and truth. As we prepare to receive the gift of Christ's presence once again, all we have to offer is what you have given us. Receive all that we have and all that we are to your glory and for your service, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



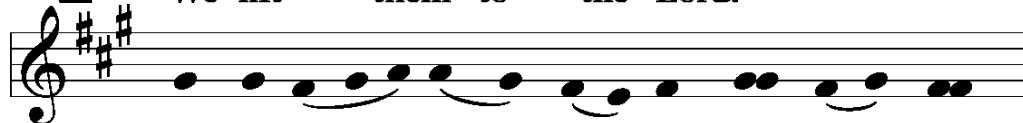
C And al-so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Preface for Baptism of Our Lord

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for at His Baptism Your voice from heaven revealed Him as Your beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him, confirming Him to be the Christ. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, ever more praising You and saying:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

- C** **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.**

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **Amen.**

Agnus Dei



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

Music at the Distribution

"Christmas Joy"

(Mark Schweizer/ arr. David Janower)

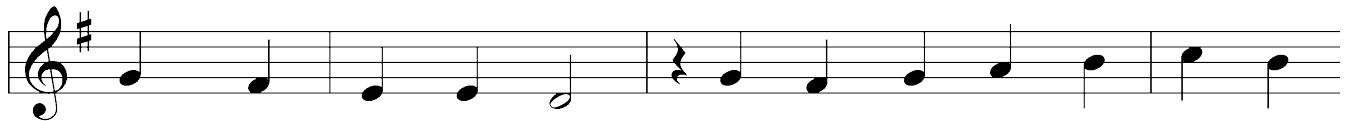
*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky has withdrawn,
When the kings see their prophecy rightly fulfilled,
When the princes and shepherds have gone;
Then the true work of Christmas begins.
to find the lost,
to heal the broken hearts,
to feed the hungry,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among all brothers,
to make music in the heart.*

"Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters"

(LSB 598)



1 Once in the blest bap - tis - mal wa - ters I put on
2 His bod - y and His blood I've tak - en In His blest
3 And thus I live in God con - tent - ed And die with -



Christ and made Him mine; Now num - bered with God's sons and
Sup - per, feast di - vine; Now I shall nev - er be for -
out a thought of fear; My soul has to God's plans con -



daugh - ters, I share His peace and love di - vine.
sak - en, For I am His, and He is mine.
sent - ed, For through His Son my faith is clear.

Refrain




O God, for Je-sus' sake I pray Your peace may bless my dy-ing day.

Text: Emilie Juliane von Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, 1637-1706; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr., alt. Tune: Christian Möck, 1737-1818 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318 Tune: Public domain

Dismissal

Post-Communion Canticle



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

L Let us pray:
Loving 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.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

"We Were Baptized in Christ Jesus" (WOV 698)



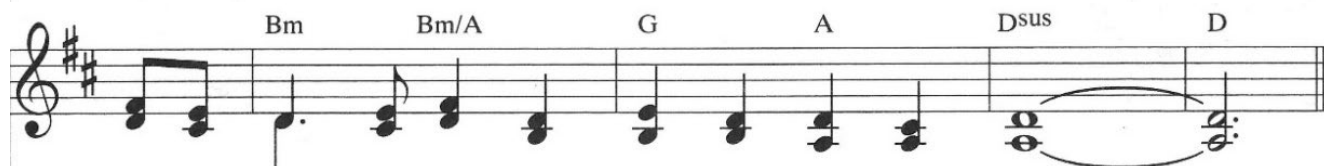
1 We were bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we were bap-tized in his death;
2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ was 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

Text: John Ylvisaker, b. 1937, alt. Music: John Ylvisaker, b. 1937. © John Ylvisaker

Postlude

Toccata from "Suite Gothique, Op. 25" (L. Boellmann)



Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Lay Assistant	Steve Tracy
Communion Lay Assistant	Mike Nordvall
Director of Music	David Leahey
Acolyte	Mychal Burroughs
Ushers	Cynthia Chen Andrew Ehlers
Altar Care	Paulette Korn
AV Operators	Greg Auld Mark Gilbertson
Welcome Host	Angela Schulze
Nursery	Barbara Gilliland Caitlin Hulshizer

This weekend's altar flowers are given by
Denise Canter in honor of her parents' birthdays.

Altar Care thanks all who purchased poinsettia plants
as well as those who assisted with the decorating,
all of which contributed to beautifying the Sanctuary for Christmas services.



Please visit our website at www.sjlc.com for devotional readings for use in the week ahead or to learn more about our life together as a congregation.

St. John's Lutheran Church · 5952 Franconia Road · Alexandria, VA 22310
703-971-2210

To view the current edition of our electronic weekly newsletter, *Midweek Update*, scan this QR Code



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