

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

Service of Holy Communion

with Holy Baptism and 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. Bless this time of worship, drawing our hearts and minds to you. Amen.

Prelude

"The Baptism of the Lord" (Stephen DeCesare)

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.

G Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Opening Hymn

"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.

KING'S LYNN
7676D

Greeting

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



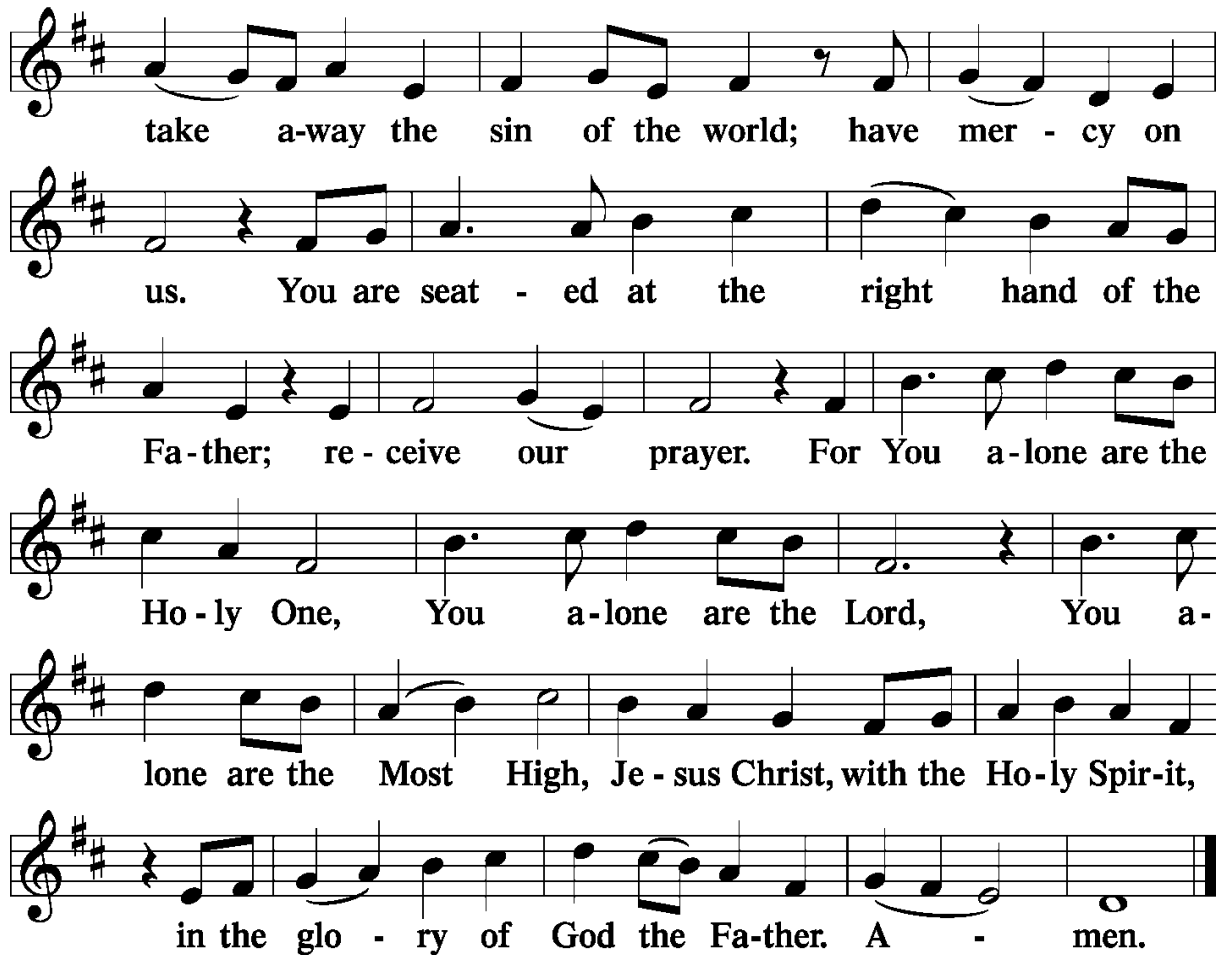
A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.

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

First Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. ⁵Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. ⁶I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory,

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm *(read responsively)*

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.*

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **⁴We 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.**

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We 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. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So 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



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

Luke 3:15-22

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



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

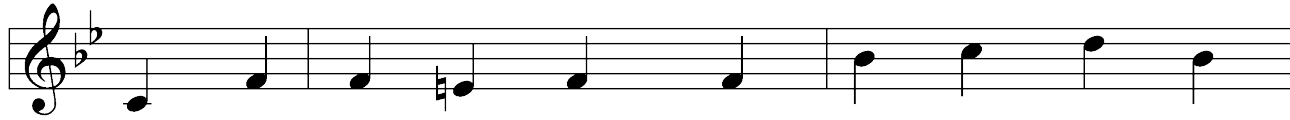
"A New Beginning"

Hymn of the Day

"To Jordan's River Came Our Lord" (LSB 405)



1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, The Christ, whom
2 The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized— The Son of
3 As Je - sus in the Jor - dan stood And John bap -
4 Then from God's throne with thun - d'rous sound Came God's own



heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, The God from God, the
God in flesh dis - guised— To stand be - neath the
tized the Lamb of God, The Ho - ly Spir - it,
voice with words pro - found: "This is My Son," was



Light from Light, The Lord of glo - ry, pow'r, and might.
Fa - ther's will And all His righ - teous - ness ful - fill.
heav'n - ly dove, De - scend - ed on Him from a - bove.
His de - cree, "The one I love, who pleas - es Me."

5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight
Anointed Christ in glorious sight
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall
To save the world and free us all.

6 Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;
This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

Text: James P. Tiefel, 1949, alt.
Tune: Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, 1690, Hamburg, alt.
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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?

C **I do.**

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 2024:

Georgiana Macynski, Cole Strawderman, Paul Strawderman Jr., Aelin Seaton, Emily Seaton, Ethan Heller, Giovanna Trocchia, Adelynn Trocchia, Isabella Trocchia, Santana Williams, Burney Williams, Vianne Rindt, Arturo Haugan-Tovar, Benjamin Haugan-Tovar

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)

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

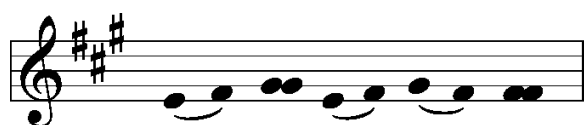
L Let us pray:

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.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



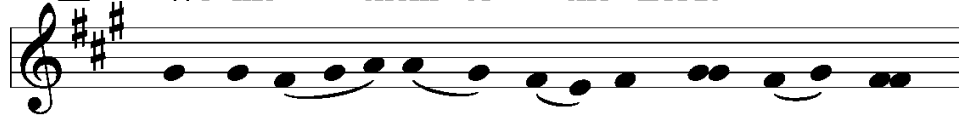
C And al-so with you.



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.

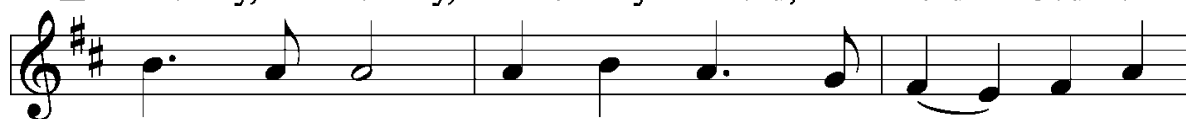
Preface for Epiphany

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 what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus



C 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 incarnation, epiphany and baptism; 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;



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.

Distribution Anthem

"You Are Sealed with the Spirit" (Kaye Saunders)
(Choir of St. John's)

You are sealed with the Spirit.

You have put on Christ.

Sing alleluia, sing!

Music at the Distribution

"We Were Baptized in Christ Jesus"

(WOV 698)



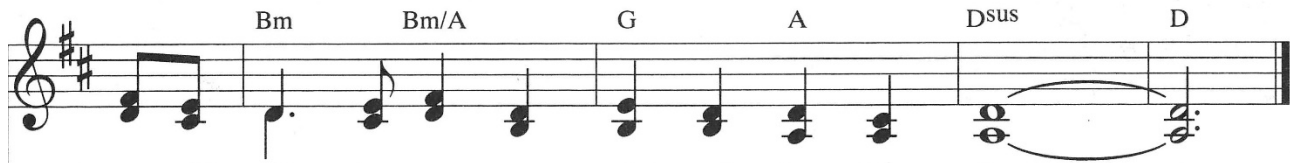
1 We were bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we were bap - tized in his death;
 2 In the wa - ter and the wit - ness, in the break - ing of the bread,
 3 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to Christ the Son,



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

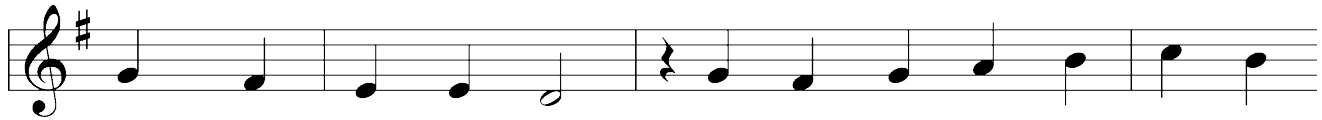
OUIMETTE
 8 7 8 7 8 7 1 1

"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
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Dismissal

Post-Communion Canticle



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.

Sending of Lay Eucharistic Ministers

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

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing" (LSB 922)



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing, Nev - er a - lone.
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Clos - er to Me;
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, Joy - ful and free. Here My
I the Lord will smile up - on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.
heard My dear Son's sto - ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo - ry.
Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here His ten - der com - fort stilled you.
Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and Broth - er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing— You are My own.
Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Joy - ful and free.
Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008
Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.
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Postlude

"Postlude on "Morning Star"" (Henry Balcomb)



Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/ Preacher

Pastor Meehan

Welcome

Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship

Lay Assistant

Tish Nordvall

Communion Lay Assistant

Mike Nordvall

Organist/Pianist

David Leahey, Director of Music

Acolyte

Charlotte Hills

Crucifer

Sofi Hills

Ushers

Benjamin May

Michelle May

Altar Care

Karen Kemmet

AV Operators

Scott Budzien

Andrea Godwin

Welcome Host

Jan Swicord

Nursery

Barbara Gilliland

Lisa Goodell



To **Give** to St. John's
Lutheran Church



This weekend's **altar flowers**
are given by donations to the
flower fund.



To **download**
our SJLC app



To **view** and subscribe to
Midweek Update



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St. John's Lutheran Church
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Alexandria, VA 22310



A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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Director of Discipleship	Jennifer Hills, DCE
Director of Music	David Leahey
Office Administrator	Michelle May
Finance Administrator	Jennifer Smith

Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff

Director of ECEC	Amanda Parks
ECEC Administrator	Kari Wells

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