

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 11 & 12, 2025

INTRODUCTION

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946
 Music: Daniel L. Schutte
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HERE I AM, LORD
 7 7 4 D and refrain

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*** GREETING**

P Christ has called us to this place,
gathered one and all by his Holy Spirit

C **We are followers of Christ
who seek to hear the Word,
live the Word,
and share the Word.**

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.**

*** KYRIE**

Assistant: In peace, in peace,

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

*Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all... (Refrain)*

*Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your Word... (Refrain)*

Congregation:

Help, save and de - fend us, O God. A - - - men.

*** SALUTATION**

Presider: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

5:30 Praise Team

8:30 Laura Nelson

11:00

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Pr. Luke

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

¹But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, 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,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my sight,

and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not fear, 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 them up,"

and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made."

PSALM: Psalm 29

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;

worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

* GOSPEL VERSE

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!

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter.

C **Speak, Lord, your servants are listening!**

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. 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 granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

SERMON Rev. Lorna Halaas, Bishop of the Western Iowa Synod, ELCA

HYMN OF THE DAY

"You Are Called to Tell the Story"



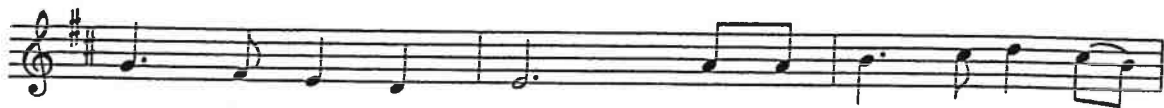
1. You are called to tell the sto - ry, Pass - ing
2. You are called to teach the rhy - thm Of the
3. You are called to set the ta - ble, Bless - ing
4. May the One whose love is broad - er Than the



words of life a - long, Then to
dance that nev - er ends, Then to
bread as Je - sus blessed, Then to
meas - ure of all space Give us



blend your voice with oth - ers As you
move with - in the cir - cle, Hand in
come with thirst and hun - ger, Need - ing
words to sing the sto - ry, Move a -



sing the sa - cred song. Christ be known in all our
 hand with stran - gers, friends. Christ be known in all our
 care like all the rest. Christ be known in all our
 mong us in this place. Christ be known in all our



sing - ing, Fill - ing all with songs of love.
 danc - ing, Touch - ing all with hands of love.
 shar - ing, Feed - ing all with signs of love.
 liv - ing, Fill - ing all with gifts of love.

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: ROSEMARY, 8 7 8 7 8 7; Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 2002, GIA Publications, Inc.

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* THE APOSTLES' CREED

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**

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

Presentation

Bishop: Having been authorized by the church to install Luke Andrew Kuenzli, our co-worker in the gospel, as Senior Pastor, I now ask for certification of this call.

Kim: After prayerful deliberation, we, of Saint John Lutheran Church, have called Luke Kuenzli to serve as a minister of word and sacrament in the position of Senior Pastor. I present Luke and this letter certifying the call.

Address and Questions

A reading from John: Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (*John 20:21-23*)

A reading from Matthew: Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

A reading from First Timothy: Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Attend to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of the hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and our hearers. (*1 Timothy 4:12-16*)

Bishop: Luke, in the presence of this assembly
will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility,
in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

Luke: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Bishop: Will you preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures
and with the confessions of the Lutheran church?
Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

Luke: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Bishop: Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures
and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

Luke: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Bishop: Trusting in God's care,
will you love, serve, and pray for God's people,
nourish them with the word and sacraments,
and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

Luke: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Bishop: Will you give faithful witness in the world,
that God's love may be known in all that you do?

Luke: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Bishop: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things,
graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Assembly: Amen.

Acclamation by the assembly

Bishop: People of God,
will you receive Luke Kuenzli as a messenger of Jesus Christ,
sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation?
Will you regard him as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of
God?

Assembly: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Bishop: Will you pray for him,
will you help and honor him in carrying out this ministry?
In all things, will you strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

Assembly: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Bishop: Luke Kuenzli, the office of Senior Pastor is now committed to you
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: Amen.

Blessing

Bishop: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will,
working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight;
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Assembly: Amen.

Kim: You have been called to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to
forgive sins.
You have been called to be among us to proclaim the good news.
You have been called to be among us to preside at the Lord's supper.

Bishop: People of God, I present to you Pastor Luke Kuenzli, your Senior Pastor.
Let us welcome him in the name of Christ.

THE OFFERING



* THE OFFERTORY

“We are an Offering”

ELW #692

The musical score is written on seven staves of music. The lyrics are: We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.

Text: Dwight Liles
Music: OFFERING, Dwight Liles

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* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P God of grace,
C hear our prayer.

P We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

*** BLESSING**

Pastor and Congregation

As you go on your way may Christ go with you,
May he go before you to show you the way;
May he go behind you to encourage you,
Beside you to befriend you,
Above you to watch over,
Within you to give you peace.
In the name of the Father, Son and Spirit.

*** SENDING HYMN**

"You Are Mine"

ELW #581



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
(4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.
I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
heal-ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad-ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*
 all will know my name. *To refrain*
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



Refrain
 Do not be a-fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine.”

To stanzas 3 and 4

4 “I

Text: David Haas, b. 1957
 Music: David Haas
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YOU ARE MINE
 Irregular

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*** DISMISSAL**

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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