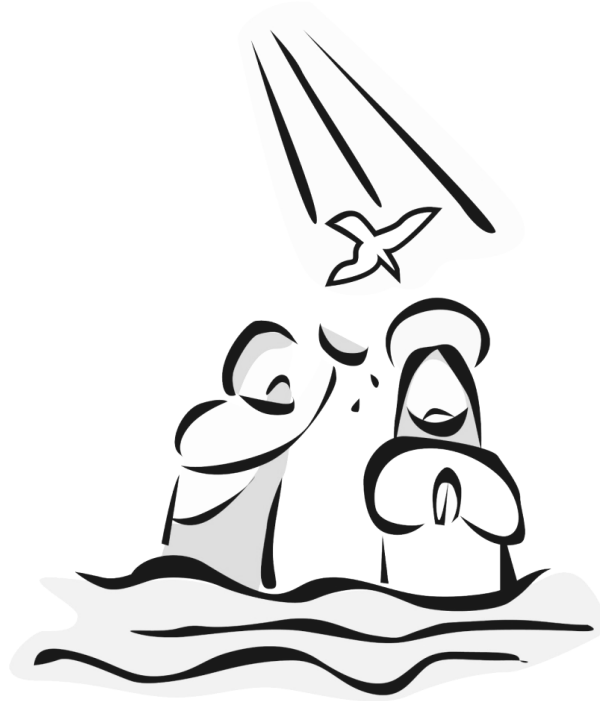


# **GATHERING RITE on HOLY BAPTISM**

Epiphany 1 - The Baptism of Our Lord



Christ Lutheran Church  
North St. Paul & Hugo, Minnesota  
January 10, 2021

### **About the Season of Epiphany...**

The Season of Epiphany is also known as the Sundays after the Epiphany. These Sundays run from the festival itself (January 6<sup>th</sup>) to the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday. The season of Epiphany offers a rich and varied message of the person of Christ and his work. It is marked by three major festivals celebrating the life of Christ: After the opening festival stressing the visit of the Magi, the Baptism of our Lord (stressing the Christ as the Anointed One) and the Transfiguration of Our Lord (stressing the Christ as the One who has done all things well) book-end the season. The remaining Sundays between the festivals reveal the Christ's words and works as witness to his divinity and redemptive role.

### **About the day...**

Jesus appears as the Christ, the Anointed One. The titles "Christ" and "Messiah" both mean "The Anointed One," and they describe how God prepared Jesus for his mission. Since the days of Othniel (Judges 3:10), the Spirit of the Lord empowered God's heroes to do his saving work. At his baptism, God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power and declared this son of Mary to be the Son of God—the one anointed to be the Savior of mankind.

*God bless your worship!*

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

### **GATHERING RITE ON HOLY BAPTISM**

*God's people long to gather together for strength from God and for mutual encouragement. This alternate beginning for worship is intended for use not only when there is a baptism but may be used on any occasion to remind God's people of Baptism's continuing blessings.*

*The minister conducts the gathering rite at the font.*

*During the introduction to the hymn, water may be poured into the font.*

*Music may be played while the presiding minister speaks the words and will introduce each stanza.*

*Please rise.*

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

*All sing:*

Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther,  
I claim a place, though weak and low - ly, A - mong your

Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Bur - ied with Christ and dead to

sin. Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

M: I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

**C: Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.** *(John 3:5,6)*

M: Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us. *(Psalm 51:5)*

**C: But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** *(1 Corinthians 6:11)*

*All sing:*

My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me To be hence -  
My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me The fruit of

forth your child and heir.  
all your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it, com - fort

me When threat - 'ning clouds a - round I see.

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

**C: Holy and merciful Father,**

I confess that I am by nature sinful

and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good.

For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

But I am truly sorry for my sins,

and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray:

Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

*All sing:*



My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; Your pro - mise  
Oh, cast me not a - way for - ev - er If words and



sure - ly will en - dure.  
deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I come de -



filed; For - give, lift up, re - store your child.

**M:** Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy,

cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

and to present her to himself as a radiant church,

without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. *(Ephesians 5:25-27)*

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**



*All sing:*



All that I am and love most dear - ly— Re - ceive it  
Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly, And help me



all, O Lord, from me.  
your own child to be! Let noth - ing that I am or



own Serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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.

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 49:1-6

*The ideal servant, Israel, is Jesus, who is called and anointed to bring true righteousness to the people of the world.  
The LORD God pledges to support him.*

Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.<sup>3</sup> He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God."<sup>5</sup> And now the Lord says—he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength—<sup>6</sup> he says: "It is too small a

thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

## SECOND LESSON

Acts 16:25-34

*God opened the doors of a jail and the doors of people’s heart through the Good News of Jesus.*

<sup>25</sup>About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup>Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. <sup>27</sup>The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup>But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” <sup>29</sup>The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup>He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup>They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” <sup>32</sup>Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. <sup>33</sup>At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. <sup>34</sup>The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Mark 1:11b

*Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased. Alleluia.*

## GOSPEL

Mark 1:4-11

*Jesus fulfills all righteousness by standing in the place of sinful man—  
first at his baptism and ultimately at the cross.*

<sup>4</sup>And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup>John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you O Christ!

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Christ Your Footprints Through The Desert*  
CWS #709



1 Christ, your foot - prints through the des - ert Led to  
2 Christ, you heard the stir - ring sum - mons As by  
3 Son of God, the road from Jor - dan Led at  
4 God, in Bap - tism you have made us One with



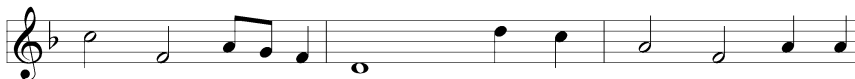
Jor - dan's flow - ing stream. There you heard the  
Jor - dan's bank you stood; Bathed, though sin - less,  
last to Cal - v'ry's hill. There up - on the  
Christ, our ris - en Lord; Freed us, claimed us,



her - ald cry - ing Is - rael's old pro - phet - ic  
with your peo - ple In the riv - er's cleans - ing  
cross for - sak - en, You ful - filled the Fa - ther's  
cleansed, for - giv - en Through the wa - ter and the



dream: "He is com - ing! He is com - ing! He will  
flood. High a - bove, the heav - ens o - pened; Came the  
will. Lamb of God, we see you dy - ing, Sin - less,  
Word. Help us hear your ur - gent sum - mons, Call - ing



cleanse the earth with flame! Sin - ners, plunge be - neath the  
Spir - it as a dove; Spoke a voice be - yond all  
yet for sin - ners slain. But where death rose up to  
us to serve you now. Send us forth, your sons and



wa - ters! Wash a - way your guilt and shame!"  
hear - ing: "See my Son, the one I love!"  
tri - umph, You be - gan your glo - rious reign!  
daugh - ters, With the cross up - on our brow.

**Heaven's Torn Open!**

1. To reveal the Triune God
2. To show us an open heaven!

**APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Holy Christian Church - the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**OFFERING**

*Offering will be received in the back of church.*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: Lord Jesus, at your baptism you revealed yourself as the obedient Son of Man, fulfilling all righteousness. Your heavenly Father revealed you as his beloved Son, in whom he is well pleased. The Holy Spirit revealed you as the Christ, anointed and armed to destroy the work of the devil.

C: We thank you, beloved Son of God, that you took on yourself the nature of a servant, became like us, and were obedient to the will of your heavenly Father.



M: Lord Jesus, eternal Word of God, you have connected your mighty Word and gracious promises to the water of Holy Baptism. In Baptism you cleansed us from sin, redeemed us from death, and clothed us in your perfect righteousness. We praise you for the promise and treasure of Baptism.

**C: Encourage us to remember our baptisms daily as we die to sin and rise to new life with you.** *Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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.**

## **INSTALLATION OF THE 2021 CHURCH COUNCIL**

**HYMN**

*To Jordan's River Came Our Lord*  
 CW #89:1-5



1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, The  
 2 The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized— The  
 3 As Je - sus in the Jor - dan stood And  
 4 Then from God's throne with thun - d'rous sound Came  
 5 The Fa - ther's word, the Spir - it's flight A -



Christ, whom heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, The  
 Son of God in flesh dis - guised— To  
 John bap - tized the Lamb of God, The  
 God's own voice with words pro - found: "This  
 noint - ed Christ in glo - rious sight As



God from God, the Light from Light, The  
 stand be - neath the Fa - ther's will And  
 Ho - ly Spir - it, heav'n - ly dove, De -  
 is my Son," was his de - cree, "The  
 God's own choice, from A - dam's fall To



Lord of glo - ry, pow'r, and might.  
 all his prom - is - es, ful - fill.  
 scend - ed on him from a - bove.  
 one I love, who pleas - es me."  
 save the world and free us all.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

M: God our heavenly Father, you have fashioned us to praise and to serve you. Help us so to live so that in all things we fulfill your purpose for us. Reach into our hearts through your Word today so that from week to week we may more joyfully and regularly devote our time, treasure and energies to those things that have true value for eternity; O our only Lord and Savior, who reigns with the Son and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## **BLESSING**

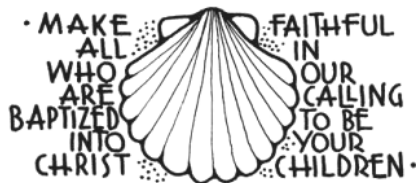
M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

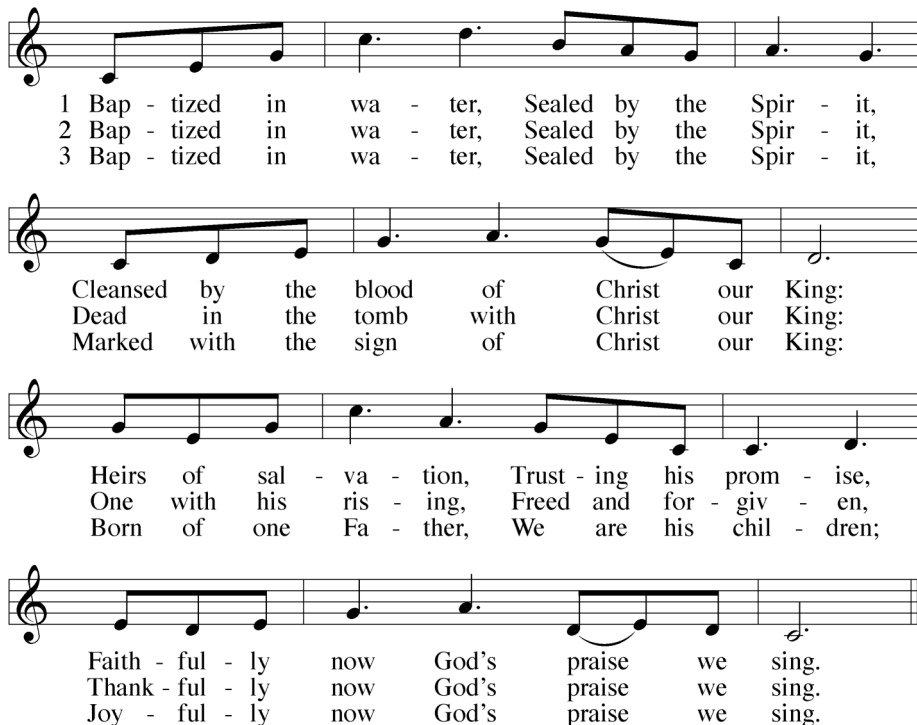
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.



# THE CLOSING HYMN

*Baptized in Water*  
CW #297



1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it,  
2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it,  
3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it,

Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:  
Dead in the tomb with Christ our King:  
Marked with the sign of Christ our King:

Heirs of sal - va - tion, Trust - ing his prom - ise,  
One with his ris - ing, Freed and for - giv - en,  
Born of one Fa - ther, We are his chil - dren;

Faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
Thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
Joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

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Tune: WINCHESTER NEW (LM) *Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien*, Hamburg, 1690, alt.

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Tune: BUNESSAN (55 8 D) Gaelic melody, 19th century.

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