

# THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

## The Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 2025

*“Dead to Sin But Alive to God”*

### AS WE GATHER

Each year the First Sunday after Epiphany takes us to the Jordan River, where Jesus is baptized. The Baptism of Our Lord is a reminder of the importance of Baptism in the life of every Christian: through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit in Holy Baptism our sins are forgiven, we are rescued from death and the devil, and we are born anew to live a new life and receive the gift of eternal life. The experience we share in Jesus' Baptism unites us with Christ and gives us a whole new way of living for time and for eternity.

All who believe and are baptized Shall see the Lord's salvation;  
Baptized into the death of Christ, They are a new creation. (LSB #601)

### THE WELCOME

### THE OPENING HYMN #596 *“All Christians Who Have Been Baptized”*



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap-tized, Who know the God of  
2 You were be-fore your day of birth, In-deed, from your con-  
3 But all of that was washed a-way— Im-mersed and drowned for-  
4 In Bap-tism we now put on Christ— Our shame is ful-ly



heav-en, And in whose dai-ly life is prized The name of  
cep-tion, Con-demned and lost with all the earth, None good, with-  
ev-er. The wa-ter of your Bap-tism day Re-stored a-  
cov-ered With all that He once sac-ri-ficed And free-ly



Christ once giv-en: Con-sid-er now what God has done, The  
out-ex-cep-tion. For like your par-ents' flesh and blood, Turned  
gain what-ev-er Old Ad-am and his sin de-destroyed And  
for us suf-fered. For here the flood of His own blood Now



gifts He gives to ev-'ry-one Bap-tized in-to Christ Je-sus!  
in-ward from the high-est good, You con-stant-ly de-nied Him.  
all our sin-ful selves em-ployed Ac-cord-ing to our na-ture.  
makes us ho-ly, right, and good Be-fore our heav'n-ly Fa-ther.

- 5 O Christian, firmly hold this gift And give God thanks forever!  
It gives the power to uplift In all that you endeavor.  
When nothing else revives your soul,  
Your Baptism stands and makes you whole And then in death completes you.

**6 So use it well! You are made new—In Christ a new creation!  
As faithful Christians, live and do Within your own vocation,  
Until that day when you possess  
His glorious robe of righteousness Bestowed on you forever!**

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*(please stand)*

## **THE INVOCATION**

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

**C:** Amen.

## **THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P:** Since we are gathered to hear the Word of God, which speaks over us in the waters of Baptism, to call upon our God in prayer and praise, which is the response of those who have been made His own, let us first confess before our God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We cannot set ourselves free from the entanglement of our sinful condition. Therefore, together as one people, united to Christ's death and resurrection, let us take refuge in the faithfulness of our God, seeking His gracious forgiveness and renewal, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

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

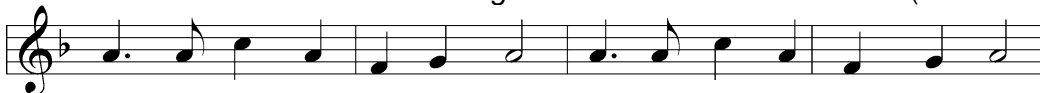
**P:** Almighty God,

**C:** **have mercy upon us. Speak over us words of life. Forgive us our sins and lead us with Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.**

**P:** Almighty God, your merciful Father, has declared you in Holy Baptism to be His child and has gathered you into the family of His Church, in which He daily and richly forgives all your sins and grants you new life through His Spirit. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*(please be seated)*

## THE HYMN OF PRAISE #394 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" (verses 1-4)



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,  
2 Man - i - fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;  
3 Man - i - fest in mak-ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;  
4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;



Man - i - fest-ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,  
And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest;  
Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell-ing all the dev - il's might;  
Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo - rious sign;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill;  
All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;



An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
Thou by all wilt be con-fessed. God in man made man - i - fest.

## THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

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.

## THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 43:1-7 (ESV)

But 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. When 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. For 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. Because 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. Fear not, for I am with you; I will

bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. I 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, everyone who is called by My name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**THE EPISTLE** Romans 6:1-11 (ESV)

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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. 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. 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. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(please stand)*

**THE VERSE** *"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"* (#394, verse 5)

**Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Present in Thy holy Word—  
Grace to imitate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;  
That we might become like Thee At Thy great epiphany  
And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 3:15-22 (ESV)

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

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John 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 fire. His 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." So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. But 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, added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison. Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens

were opened, and 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.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.**

*(please be seated)*

**THE MEMORY VERSE** from Luther's Small Catechism

**What is Confession? Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.**

### **THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## THE HYMN OF THE DAY #404 "Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered"



1 Je - sus, once with sin - ners num - bered, Had no blem - ish  
 2 John con - fessed Him as the Sav - ior— "Look, the sin - less  
 3 This the bap - tism that our Sav - ior Great - ly longed to  
 4 Je - sus, once with sin - ners num - bered, Full o - be - dience



of His own; In the wa - ters of the Jor - dan  
 Lamb of God!" Yet he dared not loose the san - dals  
 un - der - go; This the crim - son cleans - ing need - ed  
 was Your path; You, by death, have con - se - crat - ed



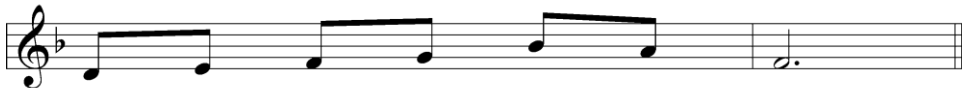
His true worth and work were shown: Heav - en o - pened  
 Of the One God's love had shod. Oh, how fair the  
 So the world God's love might know; This the mis - sion  
 Wa - ter in this sav - ing bath: Dy - ing to the



and the Spir - it There de - scend - ed like a  
 feet of Je - sus, Bring - ing news of peace to  
 of Mes - si - ah As He stepped from Jor - dan's  
 sin of Ad - am, Ris - ing to a life of



dove, As the Fa - ther's voice re - sound - ed,  
 us, Christ, the her - ald of sal - va - tion,  
 stream, He, the cho - sen and a - noint - ed  
 grace; We are count - ed with the righ - teous,



"Hear My Son, the One I love."  
 Preach - ing mer - cy from the cross:  
 Son of God, sent to re - deem.  
 O - ver us the cross You trace.

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## THE SERMON "Dead to Sin But Alive to God!" Text: Romans 6:1-10

## **THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS #914** *“Light of Light” (verse 4)*

**Come, Lord Je-sus, by Your Spir-it In our hearts Your work be-gin.  
Bring the heal-ing res-to-ra-tion Of Your im-age lost by sin;  
From Your full-ness all re-ceiv-ing Grace on grace, new life with-in!**

## **THE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

*(please stand)*

## **THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*(Each petition concludes with the following response: “Lord, in Your mercy,” “hear our prayer.”)*

## **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.**

## **THE BENEDICTION**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## THE CLOSING HYMN #922 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"



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.

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## THE ANNOUNCEMENTS