



*Loved by God,
Sent to Serve.*

**Baptism of Our Lord
January 14, 2024**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
How Does a Weary World Rejoice? © A Sanctified Art

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude: *Jesus Shall Reign*

Arr. Cindy Berry

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, be to God our
 2 Not our own ho - li - ness, nor that we have
 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come in vis - i -
 4 Praise to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

mak - er, source of all bless - ing, prod - i - gal cre -
 striv - en brings us the peace which you, O Christ, have
 ta - tion; you are the truth, our hope, and our sal -
 Spir - it: one Lord, one faith, one source of ev - 'ry

a - tor. Bap - tized and made your own, now we come be -
 giv - en. Bap - tized and set a - part, strength - en us, O
 va - tion. Bap - tize with joy and pow'r, give, O Dove de -
 mer - it. Here now re - new your church through this sym - bol

fore you, and we a - dore you,
 Sav - ior, with grace and fa - vor,
 scend - ing, life nev - er end - ing,
 giv - en; grant peace from heav - en.

Text: H. Francis Yardley, 1911-1990; Frank J. Whiteley, B. 1914, alt. Music: Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681
 Text © 1969 H. Francis Yardley and Frank J. Whiteley Used by permission OneLicense #A-718383

Prayer of the Day

Beloved God, Through the pages of scripture, you have sprinkled your love for us like an echoed refrain. Despite its repeated truth, we too often allow that good news to roll off of us like water, barely allowing it to touch us. Make today different. As we read your Word aloud, let the truth of your love for creation seep into our bones. May we hear your echoes of “beloved” deep within us and respond with overflowing joy. We are here. We are listening.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-7

¹Here is 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. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵Thus 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 upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (*spoken together*)

Alleluia.

We have observed his star at its rising, and have come to worship him.

Alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Time

Sermon

The Rev. Karla Wildberger

Hymn of the Day: *Remember and Rejoice*

ELW 454



1 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.
2 In life, in death, we trust in God's most ho - ly name,
3 We pledge our - selves a - new to flee the lures of hell,
4 God, bless us by your grace; re - mind us of your care.
5 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.



We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - raise.
for - ev - er traced by wa - ter sign, and sealed by Spir - it flame.
to cling to Christ's com - mu - ni - ty, in jus - tice, peace to dwell.
Re - new - ing Spir - it, fill us now, in - spire our work, our prayer.
We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - raise.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Music: Aaron Williams, 1731-1776

Text: © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission. OneLicense #A-718383

Affirmation of Faith

Let us profess our faith together:

I believe that the God I see in scripture is a God of love. I believe that God created me and delights in that creation. I believe the psalmist who says, “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” I believe that, just as God called Jesus “beloved,” God extends this same term of endearment to us.

I believe that no matter our earthly challenges, nothing could strip me of that sacred title. I could fail every test, miss every goal, drop every ball, and I would still be God’s beloved.

Therefore, I cling to this promise like a rock in the storm. I anchor myself with this good news, allowing the anxiety of the day to roll over me as best I can, because I know where I belong.

I am a child of God. I am beloved. I strive to live this way.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

...God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

...in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offertory: *Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine*

Arr. Cindy Berry

Offering Prayer

Let us pray,

God of grace and glory, you call us with your voice of flame to be your people, faithful and courageous. As your beloved Son embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us with the fire of your Spirit to join in his transforming work. We ask this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface

...and join their unending hymn, by saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

... We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

... Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

... now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymn: *Now the Silence* (Sung 2x)

ELW 460



The musical score is written on seven staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed', 'Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come', 'Now the hear - ing Now the pow'r Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing', 'Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion', 'Now the wed - ding Now the songs Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing', 'Now the Spir - it's vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny', and 'Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now'.

Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed

Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come

Now the hear - ing Now the pow'r Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing

Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion

Now the wed - ding Now the songs Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing

Now the Spir - it's vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny

Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919 Music: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929 Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company
Used by permission OneLicense #A-718383

Post-Communion Prayer

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

Benediction

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song: *God, Whose Almighty Word*

ELW 673



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825 Music: Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796 Public Domain

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *O Zion, Haste*

Arr. by Cindy Berry

Announcements

This Week at Lord of Life

Sunday, January 14	8:00 AM	Worship in-person
	9:15 AM	Faith Formation: Confirmation (w/adults)/SS
	10:30 AM	Worship in-person or online
Wednesday, January 17	6:00 PM	NOW Band Practice

Annual Meeting Information

January 21 – meeting between services to review the proposed budget, including discussion and questions/input.

January 28 – Annual meeting to adopt budget, vote on constitution/bylaw changes, elect council members.

Please join us for these important meetings.

ELCA World Hunger Month

January marks the 1st quarter collections for World Hunger. If you wish to support this cause, it can be added to your regular envelope and marked 'Hunger'. Thank you!

Sweet Fellowship

Whether you attend the 8:00 or the 10:30 AM service, you are invited to enjoy some sweet fellowship between services. Come early or stay late, grab a cup of coffee and a sweet treat, spend some time visiting with friends, meeting some new friends, or attending an adult education class.

2024 Altar Flower Calendar

Some of you have already noticed that the flower calendar is posted in the narthex. The cost of flowers from our florist is \$16 and is due on or before your requested Sunday. If you'd like to provide your own flowers, please note that on the sign-up sheet so that the order can be cancelled ahead of time. The flowers should be at the church prior to the 8:00 service on Sunday (or for Summer services, before the 4:00 Saturday service).

Prayer List

Susan & Kurt Hansen

Linda Hanson

Steve & Sandy Heer

Roni Heil

Dale & Jan Helwig-Schrobilgen

John & Vonda Hermesen

Jenny Huseman

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of Lord of Life Lutheran Church. Scan the code to reach our website for further information.



Acknowledgments

Cover Art: “Beloved” by Lauren Wright Pittman;
|A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org Inspired by Luke 3:21-22
Digital painting and collage

Luke’s account of Jesus’ baptism is brief and vague. He was baptized among “all the people” (Luke 3:21) by an unnamed baptizer, and until he prays, the scene is rather unremarkable. During his prayer, however, an iconic scene unfolds with the heavens opening, the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove, and a voice booming from heaven.

As I considered how I might visually respond to this text, it was difficult to imagine this event with a beginner’s mind. I’ve seen lots of imagery of Jesus in the water with clouds breaking open and a dove descending, or Jesus bursting out of water into a beam of light. These images are powerful, but I wasn’t sure if creating a similar image would be helpful, or if I’d be offering insight into the text that hadn’t already been visually explored.

I began to meditate on what was unspoken and implied in Luke’s account, and one moment that stuck out in my imagination was the moment Jesus was underwater. How did Jesus feel when he held his breath and descended into the river?

This image offers a snapshot of Jesus right before he steps into his calling, on the threshold of spectacular affirmation. He is completely suspended, embraced, and upheld by the waters of baptism. The water’s surface is choppy. The future is unknown and precarious. His path is a lonely and formidable one, eventually leading to his suffering and death.

Despite what is to come, Jesus reaches toward the surface. Two fish are drawn to the light of his halo, foreshadowing his companionship with fishers and his miraculous feeding of the five thousand. All of creation is leaning into his call.

This is what trusting your belovedness feels like—muscles and bones relieved of gravity’s burden, serenity, weightlessness, oneness with creation, and the warmth of God’s love permeating every cell of your body and every corner of your soul. —Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Worship materials created with A Sanctified Art “How Does a Weary World Rejoice?” ©
A SANCTIFIED ART LLC | SANCTIFIEDART.ORG

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed A SANCTIFIED ART LLC | SANCTIFIEDART.ORG

Other liturgical elements provided as noted.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
2899 Hales Mill Road
Dubuque, IA 52002
(563) 582-7371
lordoflife.online

Lord of Life Lutheran Guest Wireless
Password: Lutheran

Interim Pastor
Rev. Karla Wildberger
pastor@lordoflifedbq.org

Administrative Assistant
Rita Dienst
office@lordoflifedbq.org

Musician
Jill Klinebriel
jill@lordoflifedbq.org

NOW Worship Leader
Bri Ensign
bri.ensign@gmail.com

Choir Director
Susan Hansen

Administrative Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

