## Baptism of Our Lord

## ~ January 7, 2024 ~ Faith & First

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

## Confession and Forgiveness LBW pg. 56 ELW pg. 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

***C: Amen.***

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***C: Amen.***

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

***C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

***C: Amen.***

**Gathering Hymn *“As with Gladness Men of Old” vs. 1-4***  LBW #82 ELW #302

Vs. 1 As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
 as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
 so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.

Vs. 2 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
 there to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
 so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

Vs. 3 As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare,
 so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,
 all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

Vs. 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
 and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

**Greeting** LBW pg. 57 ELW pg. 138

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** LBW pg. 57ELW pg. 138

 P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

 P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

 ***C: Amen.***

**Hymn of Praise** LBW Pg 58 ELW pg. 139

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

 **Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5**

*Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.*

In the beginning when God began to created the heavens and the earth, **2**the earth was a formless void, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. **3**Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. **4**And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. **5**God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

**Psalm 29**

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.**

**3**The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord, is upon mighty waters.
**4The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.**

**5**The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
**6the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

**7**The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightening flashes.
**8The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.**

**9**The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to writhe and strips the forest bare. And in the temple all are crying, “Glory!”

**10The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
**11**O Lord give strength to your people; give them, O Lord the blessings of peace!

**The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.**

**Second Lesson: Acts 19:1-7**

*In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John’s baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.*

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. **2**He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” **3**Then he said, “Into what, then, were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” **4**Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” **5**On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6**When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied, **7**altogether there were about twelve of them.

**Gospel Acclamation**  LBW Page 62 ELW pg. 142

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the

words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Gospel:** **Mark 1:4-11**

*Mark’s gospel reports the story of Jesus’ baptism with some irony; the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.*

**4**John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5**And 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. **6**Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7**He 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. **8**I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *“The First Noel”***  ***vs. 1-4*** LBW #56 ELW #300

Vs. 1 The first Noel the angel did say was to

 certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where

 they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's

 night that was so deep.

***Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.***

Vs. 2 They looked up and saw a star shining

 in the east beyond them far; and to the

 earth it gave great light, and so it

 continued both day and night. ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 3 And by the light of that same star three

 wise men came from country far; to seek for a

 king was their intent, and to follow the

 star wherever it went. ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 4 This star drew near to the northwest, o'er

 Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it

 did both stop and stay right over the

 place where Jesus lay. ***[Refrain]***

**Apostles’ Creed** LBW pg. 65ELW pg. 105

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

**Prayers of the People**

 **“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775 ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering especially

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

Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God’s care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775 ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Offering *“We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs. 1*** LBW #410ELW #686

We give thee but thine own, what e’er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone a trust, O Lord from thee.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, Blessed are you, O God maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, or Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Great Thanksgiving** LBW pg. 68ELW pg. 144

P: The Lord be with you.

***C: And also 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 our thanks and praise.***

**Words of Institution**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer** LBW pg. 68ELW pg. 145

P: Let us pray as Jesus has 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.***

**Communion**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Sending Hymn *“Arise, Your Light Has Come!***” WOV #652 ELW #314

Vs. 1 Arise, your light has come! The Spirit’s call obey;

 Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Vs. 2 Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;

 Proclaim the captive’s liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Vs. 3 Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,

 Bind up the broken hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Vs. 4 Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!

 Rise up like eagles on the wing, God’s pow’r will make us strong.

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

***C: We will! Thanks be to God!***

**Postlude**

Music and words reprinted under CCLI #1242177