

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



Baptism of Our Lord
January 11, 2026
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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INTRODUCTION

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

THE POWER OF A GOD WHO IS HUMBLE

From the time Jesus first presented himself for baptism by John until today, Christians have puzzled over why Jesus had to be baptized. The act of baptism was understood to be an act of repentance and the cleansing of one's sins. John does not understand why Jesus, whose sandals John is "not worthy to carry" (Matt. 3:11) should seek to be baptized. Instead, John declares to Jesus, "I need to be baptized by you" (Matt. 3:14). Why should the Son of God, who is without sin, need to be baptized?

Frederick Dale Bruner, in *Matthew: A Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004), says that he considers Jesus' first miracle to have occurred at his baptism. The miracle is that Jesus was humble. The divine Son of God humbles himself by allowing John to baptize him. This act of humility is an act of obedience to God and solidarity with all humankind. Jesus has no sins to be forgiven. However, for us, he goes down to the river of repentance with all the other sinners to be baptized. Jesus' baptism, his first adult act as recorded in Matthew's gospel, gives us a clear indication of how Jesus will act for his entire life. The Son of God will come down with us, on our level, identifying with our needs. His baptism, then, foreshadows how his life will end, on the cross. In his death, Jesus experiences the worst we could ever experience as mortal humans. But, because Jesus united with us in baptism, we are united with him in both his death and resurrection. The barriers that separate us from God, including the barriers of sinfulness, mortality, and death, are broken by Jesus' obedience to God, through his humility to come down to us in the depths of our humanity.

*** indicates to stand as you are able.*

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Mallory Morris

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Our God Saves”

In the name of the Father, in the name of the Son,
In the name of the Spirit, Lord, we come.
We're gathered together to lift up your name,
To call on our Savior, to fall on your grace.
Hear the joyful sound of our offering,
As your saints bow down, as your people sing;
We will rise with you, lifted on your wings,
And the world will see that:

Our God saves, our God saves.
There is hope in your name
Mourning turns to songs of praise:
Our God saves, our God saves!

**** OPENING LITANY**

God of the waters. Water of birth,
moving us from safety into the world.

God of the waters. Water of connection,
**engaging the playful Spirit,
the passionate Christ,
the challenging God.**

God of the waters. Water of life,
**sustaining,
quenching,
cleansing.**

God of the waters. Water of trouble,
**providing us passage from here to there,
from the known to the unknown.**

God of the waters.
**Birth us.
Connect us.
Live in us.
Trouble us.**

**** GATHERING SONGS.**

“Living Waters”

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)
Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come, and drink these living waters.
Tired and broken? Peace unspoken,
Rest beside these living waters.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)
Christ is calling, find refreshing
At the cross of living waters.
Lay your life down: all the old gone;
Rise up in these living waters.

(Refrain - Music Ministers)
There's a river that flows
With mercy and love,
Bringing joy to the city of our God.
There our hope is secure;
Do not fear anymore;
Praise the Lord of living waters.

(Verse 3 - All)
Spirit moving, mercy washing,
Healing in these living waters.
Lead your children to the shoreline;
Life is in these living waters.

(Refrain - All)

**There's a river that flows
With mercy and love,
Bringing joy to the city of our God.
There our hope is secure;
Do not fear anymore;
Praise the Lord of living waters.**

(Bridge - Music Ministers)

Ooh...

(Verse 4 - All)

**Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come, and drink these living waters.
Love, forgiveness: vast and boundless;
Christ - he is our living waters.**

(Final Refrain - All / Music Ministers)

**There's a river that flows
With mercy and love,
Bringing joy to the city of our God.
There our hope is secure;
Do not fear anymore;
Praise the Lord of living waters.**

There our hope is secure;
Do not fear anymore;
Praise the Lord of living waters.

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

(Verse - Music Ministers/All)

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you,
I want to see you.

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you,
I want to see you.**

(Refrain - All/Music Ministers)

To see you high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your power and love
As we sing “holy, holy, holy.”

(Verse - All)

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you,
I want to see you.

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you,
I want to see you.**

(Refrain - All/Music Ministers)

To see you high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your power and love
As we sing “holy, holy, holy.”
To see you high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your power and love
As we sing “holy, holy, holy.”

**Holy, holy, holy,
Holy, holy, holy,
Holy, holy, holy,
I want to see you.**

**Holy, holy, holy,
Holy, holy, holy,
Holy, holy, holy,
I want to see you.**

**Holy, holy, holy,
Holy, holy, holy,
Holy, holy, holy,
I want to see you.**

“The Same Love”

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

You choose the humble and raise them high;
You choose the weak and make them strong;
You heal our brokenness inside and give us life.

(Refrain - All)

**The same love that set the captives free,
The same love that opened eyes to see
Is calling us by name; you are calling us all by name.**

**The same God that spread the heavens wide,
The same God that was crucified
Is calling us all by name; you are calling us all by name.**

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

You take the faithless one aside
And speak the words, “You are mine”;
You call the cynic and the proud, “Come to me now.”

(Refrain - All)

**The same love that set the captives free,
The same love that opened eyes to see
Is calling us by name; you are calling us all by name.**

**The same God that spread the heavens wide,
The same God that was crucified
Is calling us all by name; you are calling us all by name.
Oh...**

(Music Ministers/All)

**You're calling, you're calling, you're calling us to the cross.
You're calling, you're calling, you're calling us to the cross.
You're calling, you're calling, you're calling us to the cross.
You're calling, you're calling, you're calling us to the cross.**

**The same love that set the captives free,
The same love that opened eyes to see
Is calling us by name; you are calling us all by name.**

**The same God that spread the heavens wide,
The same God that was crucified
Is calling us all by name; you are calling us all by name.
Oh...**

**** CONFESSION**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
**you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

**** FORGIVENESS**

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.
Amen.

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God our Father, **at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

**** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

A reading from Isaiah.

Here 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.
He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus 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:
I 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,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 29

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

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

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

**The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

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

The voice of the Lord
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The 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!"

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

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

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

A reading from Acts.

Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how

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. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Mallory Morris

**** APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
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 INTERCESSION**

Assisting Minister

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Each petition concludes:

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**** GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

**** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

**** 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**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

For those communing at home or in the pew:

COMMUNION — *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence*

The body of Christ given for you.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

Each person may respond: Amen.

Communion Statement ~ If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ and ponder the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.

**** TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

**** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Assisting Minister

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**** SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us

all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

**** BLESSING**

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ÷ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**** SENDING HYMN**

“The River Is Here”

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Down the mountain the river flows
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes.
Through the valleys and over the fields,
The river is rushing and the river is here.

(Refrain - Music Ministers)

The river of God sets our feet a-dancing,
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer.
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter,
And we rejoice for the river is here.

(Verse 2 - All)

**The river of God is teeming with life,
And all who touch it can be revived.
And those who linger on this river's shore
Will come back thirsting for more of the Lord.**

(Refrain - All)

**The river of God sets our feet a-dancing,
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer.
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter,
And we rejoice for the river is here.**

(Verse 3 - All)

**Up to the mountain we love to go
To find the presence of the Lord.**

Along the banks of the river we run,
We dance with laughter giving praise to the Son.

(Refrain - All)

The river of God sets our feet a-dancing,
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer.
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter,
And we rejoice for the river is here,
Yes, we rejoice for the river is here.

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do Justice. Love Mercy.

**Created, saved and gifted by God,
we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“W + 2” = WORSHIP PLUS TWO

MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO WORSHIP EACH WEEK,
BUT ALSO TRY TO FIND A WAY TO SERVE IN THE CONGREGATION
AND SEEK OUT A WAY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

Upcoming Commemorations

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968

Thursday, January 15, 2026

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968

Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356

Saturday, January 17, 2026

One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.

Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.