

"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."

- Mark 1:7-8

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
The First Sunday after Epiphany: Baptism of Our Lord – January 11, 2015

PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-04111

www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830 email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Rev. Robert Newpher, Interim Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

The First Sunday after Epiphany: Baptism of Our Lord – January 11, 2015

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit/wind moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

PRELUDE: *When Christ Our Lord to Jordan Came – J. S. Bach*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Amen.

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,
**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.**

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.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG #455: *Crashing Waters at Creation

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***GLORY TO GOD**

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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 (page 1 in Old Testament)

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the primeval darkness, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for any person living in the chaos and darkness of despair. God created and continues to create new life.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the 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. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:12-20

1. As - crite to God, you gods, as - crite glo - ry and might;
2. God's voice breaks might - y trees, tall ce - dars of great worth;
3. With - in God's tem - ple all cry "Glo - ry!" and a - dore;

as - crite the glo - ry due his Name, wor - ship in ho - ly light.
they writhe and leap like moun - tain sheep, God's voice shakes all the earth.
the Lord sits throned a - bove the flood as King for - ev - er - more.

God's voice is on the deep, his thun - der rolls on high;
God's voice splits flames of fire, God's voice shakes des - ert sands;
The Lord will give his strength to all his own, nor cease

the Lord is on the wa - ter - flood, God's voice a might - y cry.
God's voice makes oak trees shake and strips the leaves from for - est stands.
to give his peo - ple ev - er - more the bless - ing of his peace.

Text: Psalm 29; vers. Christopher L. Webber
Music: George J. Elvey

DIADEMATA

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7 (page 139 in New Testament)

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 baptized them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and empowered 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. ²He 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." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul 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." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat alleluia

A voice from heaven said,
"This is my Son, the Be - loved, with whom I am well pleased."

***GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:4–11** (page 34 in New Testament)

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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 SERMON

SERMON



***HYMN OF THE DAY** *What Ruler Wades through Murky Streams*



1. What ru - ler wades through murk - y streams and bows be-neath the wave,
2. Christ gleams with wa - ter brown with clay from land the pro-phets trod.
3. Come bow be-neath the flow - ing wave. Christ stands here at your side



Ig - nor - ing how the world es - teems the pow - er - ful and brave?
A - bove while heav - en's clouds give way de - scends the dove of God.
and rais - es you as from the grave God raised the cru - ci - fied.



Refrain
Wa - ter, Riv - er, Spir - it, Grace, sweep o - ver me, sweep o - ver me!



Re - carve the depths your fing - ers traced in sculpt - ing me.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger

Music: David Hurd, 1994

Text © 1984, rev. 1993, Oxford University Press, Inc. CCLI #3219012

Music from *The New Century Hymnal* © 1995 The Pilgrim Press. Permission is granted for this one-time use.

WATER OF BAPTISM

***PRESENTATION (10:30 AM only)**

Pastor: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Deanna and Rylee, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

Sponsor: I present Deanna and Rylee who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Pastor: Dear friends, we rejoice to receive you, members of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, into our fellowship in the Gospel.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for Deanna and Rylee, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

***AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

***WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS (10:30 AM only)**

Let us rejoice with Deanna and Rylee in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Called to know, love, and follow you, O God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Loving God, we give you thanks for the common life we share in you. We grieve the loss of unity in Christ and beg your help in tearing down the walls of division within your church. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit embraces all creation, giving life, growth, and beauty. Move us to receive all we touch as your gift, and to preserve your earth for the sake of all living things now and in the ages to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pour the blessings of food and shelter on the poor of every land and on all those denied the abundance of creation. Let them taste your goodness and know the delight and freedom of your presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Speak healing and peace to the hearts of those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, especially Jim, John, Robert, Frieda, Joe, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Come to the forgotten, those separated from home and family, those near death, and those who grieve. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the waters of baptism you claim us as beloved sons and daughters. Shower your joy on the newly baptized, those preparing for baptism, and those who will affirm their baptism. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we give thanks for the saints of every generation who followed your beloved Son through the waters of baptism and beckoned us to come along. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting your love and healing, O God, we commend to you all for whom we pray, knowing you will hear and answer, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #459: *Wade in the Water*

(All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.
Holy God, gracious and merciful,
you bring forth food from the earth
and nourish your whole creation.
Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way,
that all may know your care;
and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

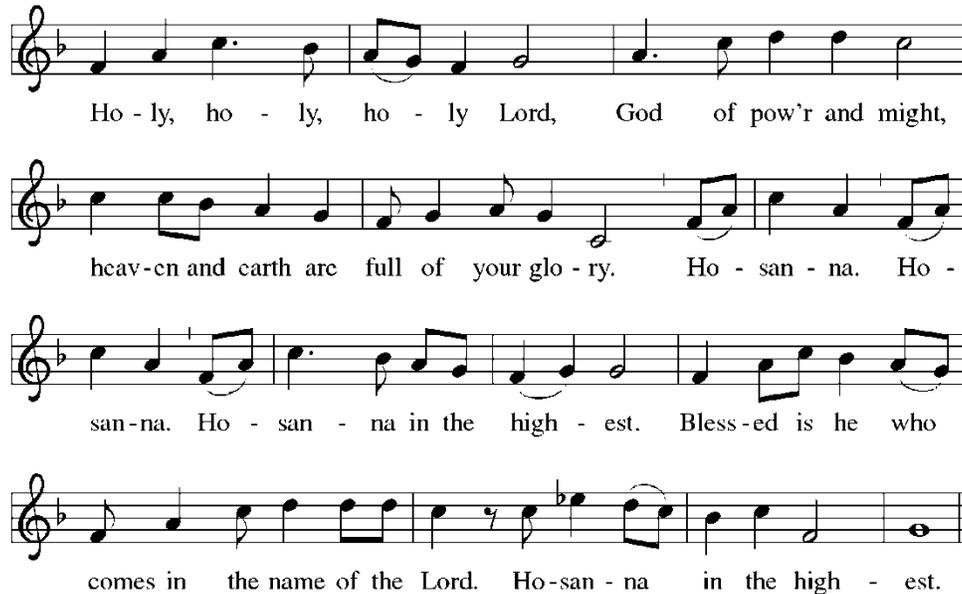
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

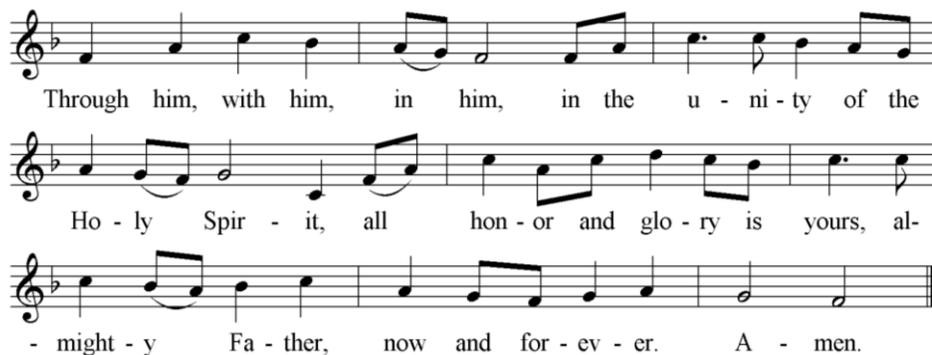
Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.



Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the
Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -
- might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

***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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

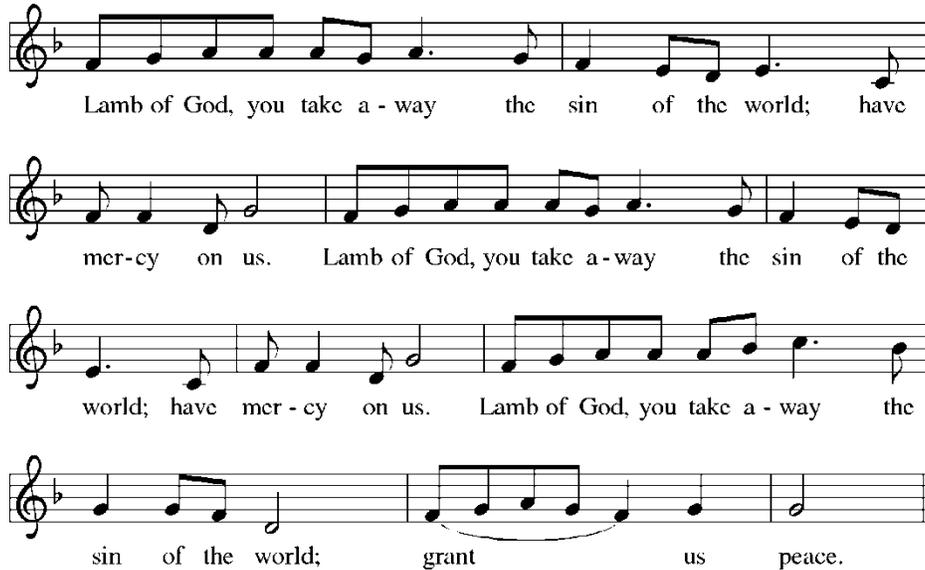
COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*



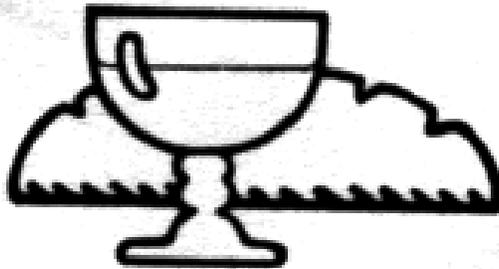
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN #800: *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

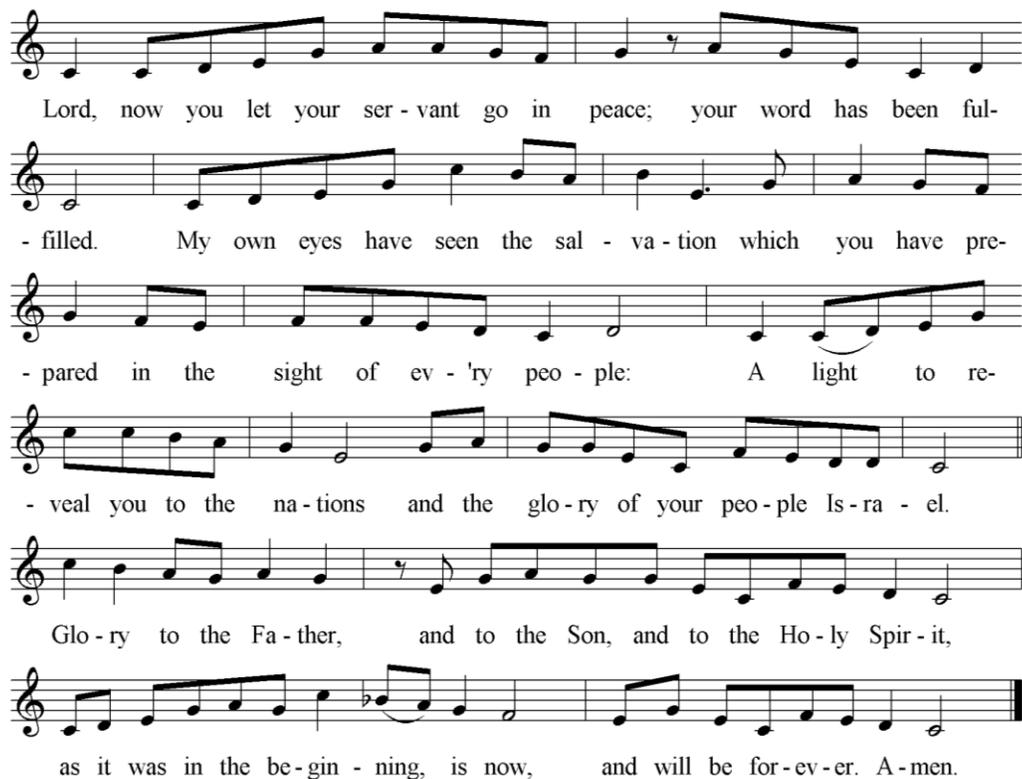
***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

Amen.



***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**



Lord, now you let your ser - vant go in peace; your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -
veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.
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.
Amen.

SENDING SONG #304: *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Wade in the Water* – Barbara Harbach

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Dave Knauff
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher:
Attendance Last Week: 54
Weekly Budgeted Need: \$
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$
YTD Actual Expense: \$

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Sally Foster
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher:
Attendance last year: 83
Last Week's Giving: \$ 4,197.00
Year to Date Receipts: \$ 4,197.00

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #39383.

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.