



*“And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”*

~Matthew 3:16-17

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Baptism of Our Lord – January 11, 2026

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Mars, PA 16046-0411

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!  
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

*If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.*

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an \* and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.*

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GATHERING

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

### \*GATHERING SONG *When Jesus Came to Jordan* (ELW 305)



1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John,  
2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,  
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;

he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.  
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.  
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond - age break.

He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,  
So when the dove de - scand - ed on him, the Son of Man,  
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:

to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.  
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.  
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

## **\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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.**

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,  
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.**

## \*THIS IS THE FEAST

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

*Refrain*

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of

vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -

le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

**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.**

## WORD

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

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry out or lift up his voice  
    or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
    and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
    he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed  
    until he has established justice in the earth,  
    and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

<sup>5</sup> 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:

<sup>6</sup> 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,

<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
    from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup> I am the LORD; that is my name;  
    my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass,  
    and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 29

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
    ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;**  
    **worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
    the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;**  
    **the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
    the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,**  
    **and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD  
    bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;**  
    **the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> 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!"

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;**  
    **the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength to your people;  
    give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

## SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

A reading from Acts

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality,<sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> 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,<sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,<sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## \*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:13-17

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

## SERMON

## **\*HYMN OF THE DAY *I Bind unto Myself Today* (ELW 450)**

*(Blue prayer cards are collected during the song.)*

*This song may be helpful to sing from the hymnal (the red book in the pew). To find the song, locate the page that has the large-printed “450” in the upper corner of the page. It is located approximately halfway through the book. You will see that verse 1 is just two lines long.*

*Verses 2, 3, and 5 are all the same and begin with the same music as verse 1.*

*Verse 4 is unique and has a different rhythm and melody.*

- 1 I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity  
by invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three.
- 2 I bind this day to me forever, by pow'r of faith, Christ's incarnation,  
his baptism in the Jordan River, his cross of death for my salvation,  
his bursting from the spiced tomb, his riding up the heav'nly way,  
his coming at the day of doom, I bind unto myself today.
- 3 I bind unto myself today the virtues of the starlit heaven,  
the glorious sun's life-giving ray, the whiteness of the moon at even,  
the flashing of the lightning free, the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,  
the stable earth, the deep salt sea, around the old eternal rocks.
- 4 Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.
- 5 I bind unto myself the name, the strong name of the Trinity  
by invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three,  
of whom all nature has creation, eternal Father, Spirit, Word.  
Praise to the Lord of my salvation; salvation is of Christ the Lord!

## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 INTERCESSION

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.*

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill especially Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Sally, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Enlivening God, look upon us with your everlasting mercy, and receive the prayers gathered before you now (*blue prayer cards are read*). We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

## \*SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us share God's peace with one another

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY HYMN *O Living Breath of God* (ELW 407)

\*Rise on 3<sup>rd</sup> verse



1 O liv-ing Breath of God, wind at the be-gin - ning up-on the wa - ters;  
2 O liv-ing Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth a - mong us;  
3 O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing us to life through bap-tis-mal wa - ters;



O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing the cre - a - tion to won-drous birth:  
O liv-ing Breath of God, who to the cre - a - tion gives life a - new:  
O liv-ing Breath of God, sigh-ing with cre - a - tion for free-dom's birth:

*Refrain*



Come now, and fill our spir - its; pour out your gifts a - bun - dant.



O liv-ing Breath of God, Ho-ly Spir-it, breathe in us as we pray.

### \*OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is 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.**

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:

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

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all.  
By your powerful word you created all things.  
Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.  
He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing,  
his dying and rising, and his promise to come again,  
we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food,  
we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

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

**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**

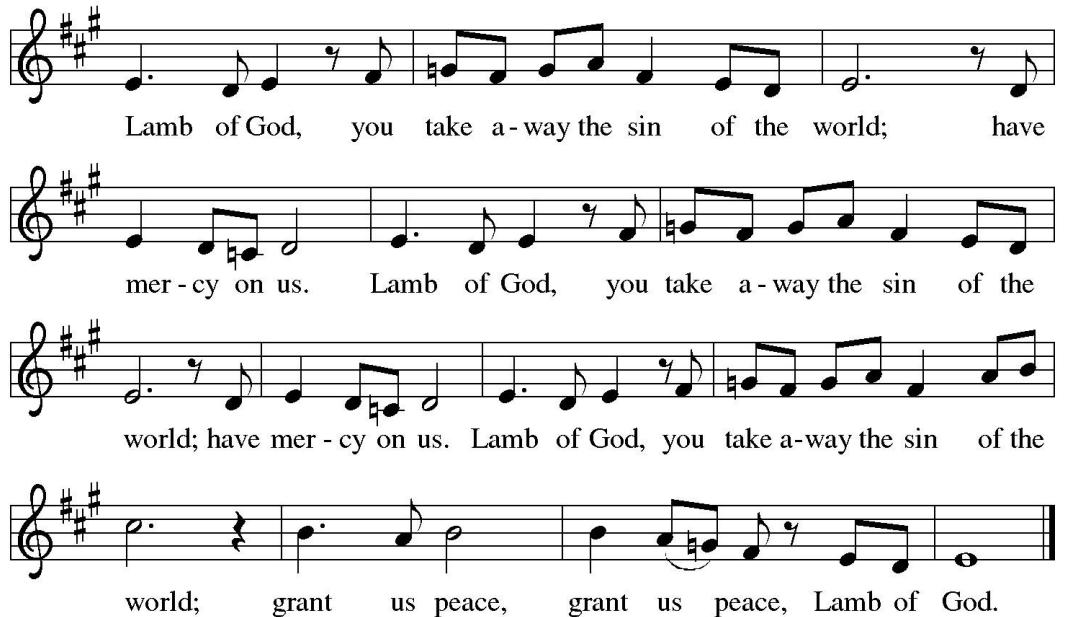
## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see!

*Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

*Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.*

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

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMN *Crashing Waters at Creation* (ELW 455)



- 1 Crash-ing wa-ters at cre-a-tion, or-dered by the Spir-it's breath,
- 2 Part-ing wa-ter stood and trem-bled as the cap-tives passed on through,
- 3 Cleans-ing wa-ter once at Jor-dan closed a-round the one fore-told,
- 4 Liv-ing wa-ter, nev-er end-ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit-ness day's be-gin-ning from the bright-ness of night's death,  
wash-ing off the chains of bond-age—chan-nel to a life made new.  
o-pened to re-veal the glo-ry ev-er new and ev-er old.  
Well-spring, source of life e-ter-nal, drench our dry-ness, make us whole.

## COMMUNION HYMN *Spirit of Gentleness* (ELW 396)

*Refrain*



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call-ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest-less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



1 You moved on the wa - -ters, you called to the deep,  
2 You swept through the des - -ert, you stung with the sand,  
3 You sang in a sta - -ble, you cried from a hill,  
4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.

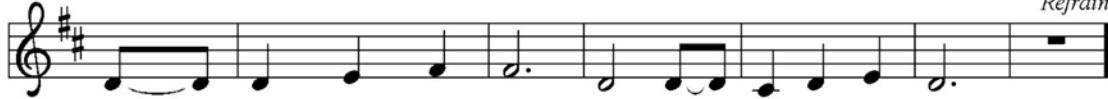


then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;  
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;  
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;  
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - -ons you called to each thing:  
and when they were blind - ed with i - -dols and lies,  
and down in the cit - -y you called once a - gain,  
our wom - en see vi - -sions, our men clear their eyes.

*Refrain*



"A - -wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."  
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.  
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.  
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo-ple a - rise.

## \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

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

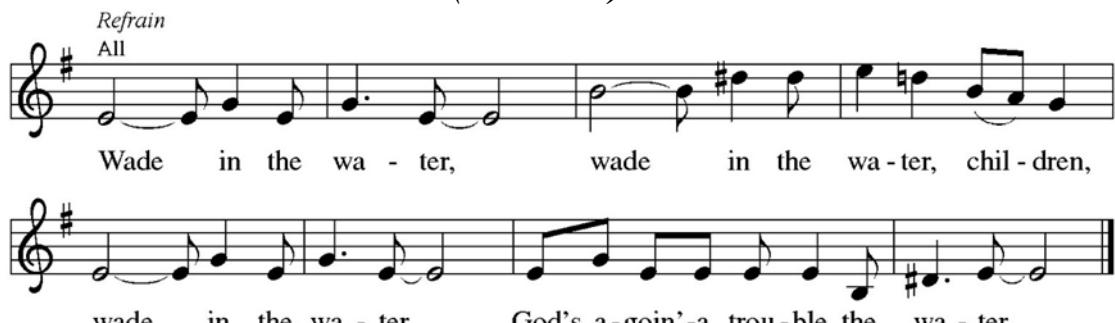
### \*BLESSING

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.

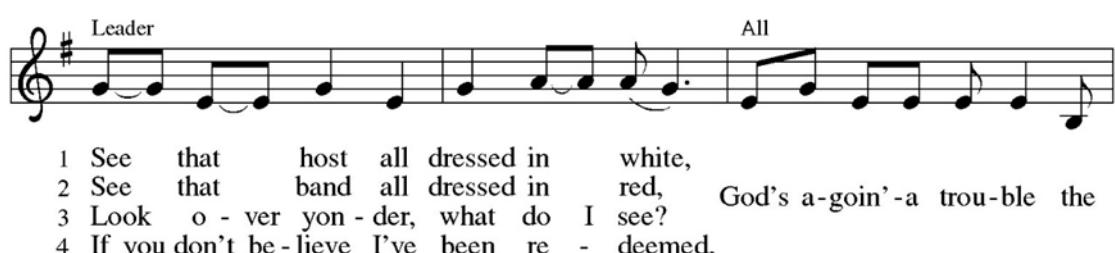
### \*SENDING SONG *Wade in the Water* (ELW 459)

*Refrain*



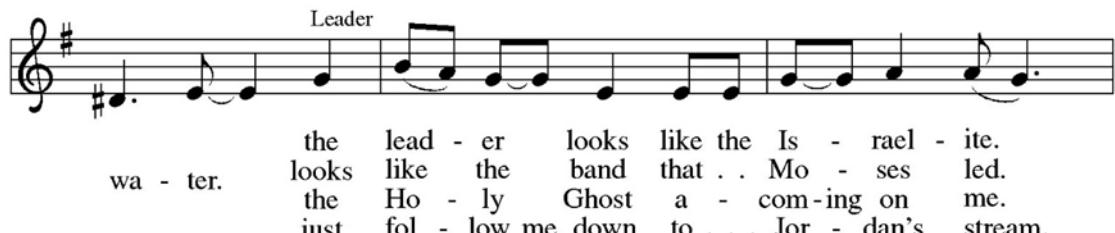
Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,  
wade in the wa - ter, God's a-goin'-a trou - ble the wa - ter.

*Leader*



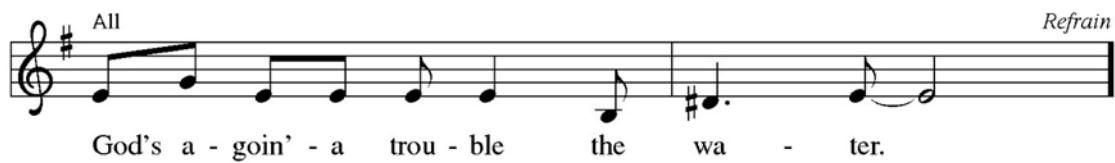
1 See that host all dressed in white,  
2 See that band all dressed in red,  
3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?  
4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

*Leader*



wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.  
looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led.  
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com-ing on me.  
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

*All*



God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

*Refrain*

### \*DISMISSAL

“May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus . . . May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. (*Romans 15:5, 13*)

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Assisting in worship today:

**Assisting Minister: David D**

**Acolyte: Ella N**

**Offering: Jules K and Eva K**

**Attendance last week: 60 + 3 zoom**

### Notes for the day's texts:

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.

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. Why should the Son of God, who is without sin, need to be baptized? His baptism 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.

### Today's Music

*When Jesus Came to Jordan.* Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000, Music: English folk tune. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP) / Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.  
*Psalm 29.* Text: *The New Metrical Psalter*, Christopher L. Webber, © 2008. Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Wiliams, 1731-1776, Public Domain.

*Spirit of Gentleness.* Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940, Music: James K. Manley. James K. Manley.

*I Bind unto Myself Today.* Text: attr. Patrick, 372-466; para. Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895, Music sts. 1-3, 5: Irish melody  
Music st. 4: Irish melody. Public Domain/ CPH Publishing (SESAC).

*Wade in the Water.* Text: African American spiritual, Music: African American spiritual. Public Domain.

*O Living Breath of God.* Text: Osvaldo Catena, 1920-1986; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923, Music: Swedish folk tune. Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.

*Crashing Waters at Creation.* Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993, Music: attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876. Public Domain / GIA Publications, Inc.

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### African American Spirituals (e.g., Wade in the Water)

Scholars have catalogued more than 6,000 African American spirituals. We frequently do not have names connected to these songs because authorship was not maintained or even allowed in the oppressed context out of which these songs were born. Enslaved Africans were prohibited from learning to read and write and thus passed on valuable lessons from Scriptures through spirituals sung in the fields and in clandestine worship services. We sing these songs with awareness of their painful past along with the strength and resiliency that is woven into their fabric.

### Next Week's Readings

*Isaiah 49:1-7 The servant brings light to the nations*

*Psalm 40:1-11 I love to do your will, O my God. (Ps. 40:8)*

*1 Corinthians 1:1-9 Paul's greeting to the church at Corinth*

*John 1:29-42 Revelation of Christ as the Lamb of God*