

Worship Leader Edition  
Baptism of our Lord

January 8, 2023

8:30 AM

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GATHERING

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Prelude

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *{Front Center}* (Rob)

+OPENING HYMN

Dearest Jesus, We are Here

ELW pg. 443

**Verse 1**

Dearest Jesus, we are here,  
gladly your command obeying.  
With this child we now draw near  
in response to your own saying  
that to you it shall be given  
as a child and heir of heaven.

let this child, your mercy sharing,  
in your arms be shielded ever,  
yours on earth and yours forever.

**Verse 4**

Gracious head, your member own;  
shepherd, take your lamb and feed it;  
prince of peace, make here your throne;  
way of life, to heaven lead it;  
precious vine, let nothing sever  
from your side this branch forever.

**Verse 2**

Your command is clear and plain,  
and we would obey it duly:  
"You must all be born again,  
heart and life renewing truly,  
born of water and the Spirit,  
and my kingdom thus inherit."

**Verse 5**

Now into your heart we pour  
prayers that from our hearts proceeded.  
Our petitions heav'nward soar;  
may our heart's desires be heeded!  
Write the name we now have given;  
write it in the book of heaven!

**Verse 3**

Therefore we have come to you,  
in our arms this infant bearing;  
truly here your grace we view;

+GREETING *{Front Center}* (Britt Halaas)

L: 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.**

*(Assistant may be seated if not cantoring)*

+KYRIE *(cantor and congregation)*

ELW pg. 138/*Screen*

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: 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.**

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

**C: Lord have mercy.**

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

**C: Amen.**

+HYMN OF PRAISE (*cantor and congregation*) “Glory to God”

ELW pg. 139/*Screen*

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

**C: 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 {*Front Center*} (*Britt Halaas*)

L: 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.

**C: Amen.**

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## WORD

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FIRST READING {*Lectern*} (*Lori Murray*)

Isaiah 55:6-13

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

ELW pg. 142/*Screen*

**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

+THE HOLY GOSPEL {*Pulpit*} (*Rob*)

Matthew 3:1-17

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Then 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 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.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON {*Pulpit*}

Rob

**Verse 1**

Christ, when for us you were baptized,  
God's Spirit on you came,  
as peaceful as a dove, and yet  
as urgent as a flame,  
as urgent as a flame.

**Verse 3**

Straightway and steadfast until death  
you then obeyed the call  
to serve with free and willing heart,  
to give your life for all,  
to give your life for all.

**Verse 2**

God called you, “My beloved Son”;  
you are God’s servant true,  
sent to proclaim the reign of heav'n,  
God's holy will to do,  
God's holy will to do.

**Verse 4**

Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord;  
your cross on us be signed,  
that that likewise in God’s service we  
may perfect freedom find,  
may perfect freedom find.

+THE APOSTLES’ CREED *{Front Center}* (Britt Halaas)

*Screen*

L: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**C: 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.**

L: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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.**

+THE PRAYERS *{Front Center}* (Britt Halaas)

*After each petition:*

L: Let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

+THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Screen*

**C: 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.**

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMS *(light candles for those baptized in 2022)*

Lucy Brown, Cassidy DeSchepper, Ryder Hamblin, Parker Hamblin, Daxton Hartung, Kiera MacPhail, Liam Newby, Macklin Thorsland, Kendra MacPhail

L: On this Baptismal Sunday, I invite you to remember your baptism. You will be invited up to come to the font to receive a sign of the cross on your forehead or hand.

+SHARING OF THE PEACE *{Front Center}* (Britt Halaas)

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

**C: And also with you.**

L: For all who are gathered, let us take a moment to welcome everyone with a wave of peace. For those of you online, please share a word of peace in the comment or chat. Most all as we go out into the world may we greet others as people of peace.

*Please share of wave of peace with one another.*

TIME OF REFLECTION AND RESPONSE (*Britt Halaas*)

L: In this time of reflection and response you are invited to fill out your welcome card. Share any reflections, questions, or prayers on the back. Also, take this time to prepare your offering. For those gathered the collection plates are in the front and back. For those online please go to our website [stlukesbloomington.org](http://stlukesbloomington.org) and there is a link to give at the bottom of every page. Enjoy this time.

MUSIC

“When Jesus Came to Jordan”

ELW # 305

**Verse 1**

When Jesus came to Jordan  
to be baptized by John,  
he did not come for pardon  
but as the Sinless One.  
He came to share repentance  
with all who mourn their sins,  
to speak the vital sentence  
with which good news begins.

So when the dove descended  
on him, the Son of Man,  
the hidden years had ended,  
the age of grace began.

**Verse 3**

Come, Holy Spirit aid us  
to keep the vows we make;  
this very day invade us,  
and every bondage break.  
Come, give our lives direction,  
the gift we covet most:  
to share the resurrection  
that leads to Pentecost..

**Verse 2**

He came to share temptation,  
our utmost woe and loss,  
for us and our salvation  
to die upon the cross.

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SENDING

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+BENEDICTION {*Front Center*} (*Rob*)

L: 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.

**C: Amen.**

+SENDING HYMN

“Crashing Waters at Creation”

ELW #455

**Verse 1**

Crashing waters at creation,  
ordered by the Spirit's breath,  
first to witness day's beginning  
from the brightness of night's death.

**Verse 3**

Cleansing water once at Jordan  
closed around the one foretold,  
opened to reveal the glory  
ever new and ever old.

**Verse 2**

Parting water stood and trembled  
as the captives passed on through,  
washing off the chains of bondage--  
channel to a life made new.

**Verse 4**

Living water, never ending,  
quench the thirst and flood the soul.  
Wellspring, source of life eternal,  
drench our dryness, make us whole.

+DISMISSAL {*Front Center*} (*Britt Halaas*)

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE