

January 7, 2023
Baptism of Our Lord
Lord of Life Lutheran Church

WELCOME
MUSICAL OFFERING

Suzanne Bowen



How does a
weary world
rejoice? *We trust our
belovedness*

CALL TO WORSHIP

There are some days
when I need the reminder
that I belong to God.
Do you ever feel that way?

Yes. We do.

**The world can be a harsh place;
we often need that reminder.**

Well then, let us care for one another.
Let us speak the truth we each need to hear.
Church, you belong to God.
You are God's beloved.

you belong to God.

You are God's beloved.

Let us worship the God who knows our names.

Let us worship the God who calls us beloved. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our scripture passage for today tells the story of Jesus being baptized. The Gospel of Luke tells us that the sky opened up and the voice of God was heard saying, "You are my Son, whom I love; with whom I am well-pleased" (Luke 3:22). Friends, I don't think that's the only time God has said words like that. If I understand the promise of scripture, then I believe God delights in you. God created you. God loves you with the same passion that we hear God express in today's scripture. So trusting that good news, trusting that we are beloved, let us go to God in prayer. For we know that the one who listens, listens with love.

Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,

From the very beginning, you breathed life into us and called us good. However, somewhere along the way we replaced "good" with "not enough." Somewhere along the way we turned the volume up on that phrase and began to doubt our own self-worth. Forgive us, for this is not what you have taught us. For when the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved. Show us how to return to that truth. Show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in that good news. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, God's grace and understanding is deeper and wider than we could possibly imagine. So say these words of grace with me:

Our story begins with belovedness.

**Even when we lose our way,
even if we stumble and fall,**

God never stops breaking through the clouds to claim us.

We are known. We are forgiven. We are beloved.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved God, Through the pages of scripture, you have sprinkled your love for us like an echoed refrain. Despite its repeated truth, we too often allow that good news to roll off of us like water, barely allowing it to touch us. Make today different. As we read your Word aloud, let the truth of your love for creation seep into our bones. May we hear your echoes of “beloved” deep within us and respond with overflowing joy. We are here. We are listening.

Amen.

CHILDREN’S SERMON**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17**

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

MESSAGE**HYMN OF THE DAY**

We Know that Christ is Raised

#449

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe that the God I see in scripture is a God of love.

I believe that God created me and delights in that creation.

I believe the psalmist who says,

“I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

I believe that, just as God called Jesus “beloved,”

God extends this same term of endearment to us.

I believe that no matter our earthly challenges,

nothing could strip me of that sacred title.

I could fail every test, miss every goal,

drop every ball,

and I would still be God’s beloved.

I am a child of God.

I am beloved.

I strive to live this way.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS**SHARING OF THE PEACE****SONG DURING OFFERING**

As the Grains of Wheat

#465

OFFERTORY

Lamb of God

#195

OFFERTORY PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread;

forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil;

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

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COMMUNION BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

Oh Christ the Same

#760

SENDING

Liturgy and Prayers are adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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