

# JANUARY 7, 2024

## BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Welcome to 9:30 am Worship

St. Luke Lutheran Church  
35 Wilson Ave, PO Box 338; Gilbertsville, PA 19525

### PRELUDE

**How Brightly Shines the Morning Star**

setting, Niels Wilhelm Gade (1817-1890)

### GATHERING HYMN:

**ELW 448 This is the Spirit's Entry Now**

Text: Thomas E. Herbranson, 1933-2009, © Thomas E. Herbranson, admin. Augsburg Fortress;

Music: North American traditional; Arr. ©2006 Augsburg Fortress

### HYMN OF PRAISE

**ACS 914 Jesus, the Light of the World vs 1 & 4**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, stanzas; George D. Elderkin, 1845–1928, refrain; Music: Traditional; arr. George D. Elderkin

### HYMN OF THE DAY:

**ELW 455 Crashing Waters at Creation**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993, ©1991 GIA Publications; Music: attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

### SENDING HYMN:

**ACS 942 Every Time I Feel the Spirit**

Text: African American spiritual; Music: African American spiritual; arr. Melva W. Costen, b.1933

Arr. ©1990 Melva W. Costen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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**St. Luke**  
Lutheran  
Church

Knowing,  
Sharing, and  
Celebrating  
Christ

Lincoln Noecker,  
Director of Music

Valerie Schlegel  
Dir. Handbell & Youth Choir

Marsha Staub,  
Office Administrator

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Scott Moyer, Treasurer

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Joe Vendetti

stlukegilbertsville.org  
610-367-9738

## **GATHERING**

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

## **PRELUDE**

*During the prelude, please use this time to quietly allow God to open your heart to his blessed presence.*

## **WELCOME**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you.**

**We have known you but have not always loved you.**

**We have wounded one another**

**and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit  
dwelling in each of us.**

**Remember your covenant.**

**Renew your creation.**

**Restore us,**

**that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

**Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of † Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.  
You are God's beloved.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

*This is the Spirit's Entry Now*

**ELW 448**

## 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

**Jesus, the Light of the World vs. 1 & 4**

**ACS 914**

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;

"Glo - ry to the new-born king," Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

*Refrain*

We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.

Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

## 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

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

## FIRST READING

A reading from Genesis 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the 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. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God 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 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 for evermore.**

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

## SECOND READING


A reading from Acts 19:1-7

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He 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." <sup>3</sup>Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup>Paul 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." <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—  
<sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

## GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Mark 1:4-11

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And 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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He 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. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And 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. <sup>11</sup>And 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.**

## **MESSAGE**

**Dennis Faust**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Crashing Waters at Creation**

**ELW 455**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## **NICENE CREED**

*Together, let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**



Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you**

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

*Let us pray.*

Blessed are you, Holy One,  
**for all good things come from you.**  
**In bread and cup you open heaven to us.**  
**Meet us at this table,**  
**that we receive what we seek**  
**and follow your Son, Jesus,**  
**in whose name we pray.**  
**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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.

*All are welcome to commune. Please follow the instructions of the presiding minister.*

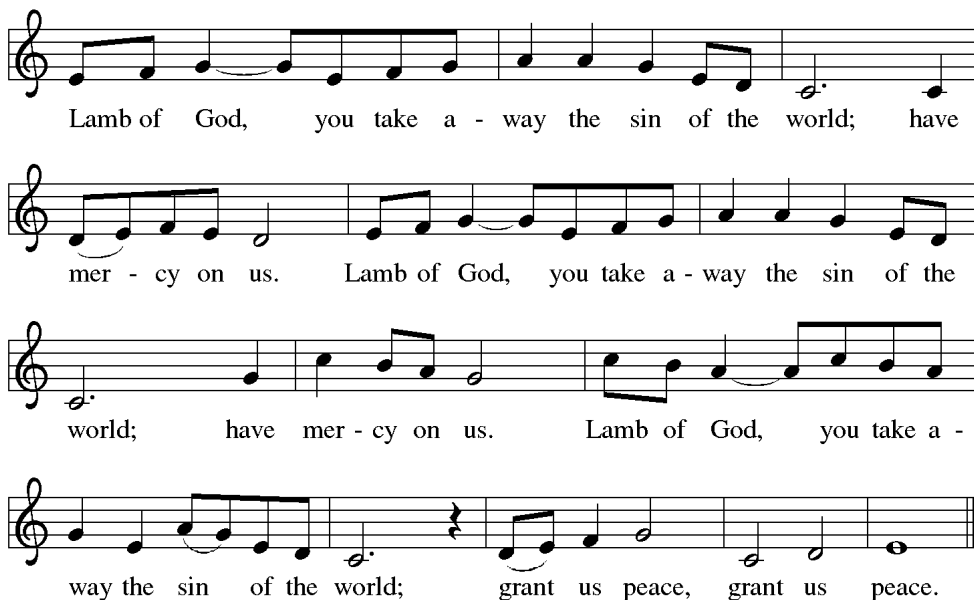
## LORD'S PRAYER

*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.**

## COMMUNION SONG



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.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.  
Come, take your place at the table.

## **COMMUNION**

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

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

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Giver of every gift,

**Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.**

**Raise us to life by your power**

**for the benefit of all and to your glory,**

**now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SENDING**

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

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## **BLESSING**

God who names you,

Christ who claims you,

and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,

✠ bless you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*Refrain*

Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing

in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the

spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,

2 . . All a - round me looked so fine,

3 . . Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

*Refrain*

out of his mouth came fire and smoke.  
asked . . . my Lord if all was mine.  
chills the bod - y but not the soul.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are God's beloved..  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

From Sundayandseasons.com

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## **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Worship Leader & Message: Dennis Faust  
Director of Music: Lincoln Noecker  
Lector: Kathy Billger  
Audio Video: Ron Ball  
Ushers: Ron Hukari/Dave Janzow  
Sacristan: Merrie Gephart

## **LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY 8-13**

**Monday** – Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Genesis 17:1-13; Romans 4:1-12  
**Tuesday** – Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Exodus 30:22-38; Acts 22:2-16  
**Wednesday** – Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Isaiah 41:14-20; John 1:29-34  
**Thursday** – Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Judges 2:6-15; 2 Corinthians 10:1-11  
**Friday** – Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Judges 2:16-23; Acts 13:16-25  
**Saturday** – Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Samuel 2:21-25; Matthew 25:1-13

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** This morning in our prayers we remember the saints whose commemorations fall during this week:

January 7 to 13 No Lesser Festivals or Commemorations

## **PRAYERS FOR Health and Healing:**

♦ Thomas Fleagle, pneumonia (brother of Marsha Staub)

## **PRAYERS FOR those in grief:**

♦ Family & friends of Ann Rhoads  
♦ Family & friends of Bill Lowry (friend of Marsha Staub)

## **PRAYERS FOR those Needing Continued Prayers:**

Bob Arobone  
Jalen Gray  
Bonnie Ritter

Tom Bucks  
Larry Kuser

Kristopher Yoder  
Sharon Smith

## **PRAYERS FOR those at home:**

Gloria Christman  
Marie Geiger  
Ruth Nice  
Jean & Bill Christy

Paul McFarland  
Helen Penketh  
Cookie Stasik

## **Items Needed**

During January we are collecting these items for three groups:

We are again collecting gently used towels (bath, hand, washcloths, and kitchen), twin sheets and twin blankets. When a family leaves the shelter they take their towels to their new home. A box is in the Narthex for donations. This is Dave Janzow's Action Team project.

Save those old Christmas and greeting cards for Senior Center at Multi Service. They are needed in the craft room. There is a collection box in the Narthex.

Safe Berks used suitcases. Put them in the Narthex.

## **St. Luke Knitters Needed**

Hats are needed at the shelter. Yarn is available in the room across from the Pastor's office. If anyone needs a loom, please see Connie Hukari.

## **Annual Reports**

Please send your 2023 committee reports into the church office by  
**Monday, January 15.**

## **Inclement Weather**

In the event that we have inclement weather affecting Sunday's worship, a message will be left on the church phone at 610-367-9738. If you hear the "normal" message, church is not cancelled.

| Date   | Week of Jan. 7 - 13  | Location                                     |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Sunday, January 7</b><br><b>Baptism of Our Lord</b> | 9:30 am Worship  | Nave   |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br><b>January 9</b>                     | 3:00 pm Worship & Music<br>7:00 pm Women's Bible Study<br>7:00 pm Boy Scouts | Memorial Hall<br>Green Room<br>Memorial Hall |
| <b>Wednesday,</b><br><b>January 10</b>                 | CCR Shopping 1 to 4:pm   | CCR  |
| <b>Thursday,</b><br><b>January 11</b>                  | 6:30 pm Girl Scouts<br>6:30 pm CCR Shopping                                  | Green Room<br>CCR                            |
| <b>Friday</b><br><b>January 12</b>                     | 8:30 pm AA Meeting   | Class Room Downstairs                        |
| <b>Worship Leaders</b>                                 | <b>Sun., January 14, 2024</b>  | <b>Sun., January 21, 2024</b>                |
| <b>Presiding</b>                                       | Rev. David Lutchter  | Rev. Tyson Frey                              |
| <b>Lector</b>  | Pat Hallman  | Ron Ball                                     |
| <b>Ushers</b>  | Dave Girton, Ron Hukari  | Larry Billger, Terry Conrad                  |
| <b>Audio Video</b>                                     | Mike Ferraro   | Ron Hukari                                   |
| <b>Office Volunteer</b>                                | Pat Hallman (Jan. 11)  | Donna Biehl (Jan. 18)                        |
| <b>Sacristan</b>                                       | Merrie Gephart   | Merrie Gephart                               |

| <b>Worship and Stewardship</b>        |          |                              |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b><u>Our December Commitment</u></b> |          | <b><u>Our Generosity</u></b> | <b><u>Overage/Shortfall</u></b> |
| Budget                                | \$16,330 | \$ 15,185                    | -\$1,145                        |
| Mission Support                       | \$680    | \$ 770                       | +\$ 90                          |





# READER

## Baptism of Our Lord

- Today we celebrate the **Baptism of our Lord**.
- We remember Jesus' baptism in the **Jordan River**.
- The Baptism of Our Lord begins the season of **Epiphany**.
- The symbol of Epiphany is a **burst of light** because Jesus is the light of the world.

### Made Complete

Count the points on the burst of light to find out what river Jesus was baptized in.





\_\_\_\_\_



"A voice came down from heaven, 'U

are my , the

b  ed, with U  am well

pleased.'"

## Memory Verse



### Bible Tip!

Three of the Gospels tell the story of Jesus' baptism with lots of details. Can you figure out the one that doesn't?

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>MARK</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <b>JOHN</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO    |
| <b>LUKE</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <b>MATTHEW</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |