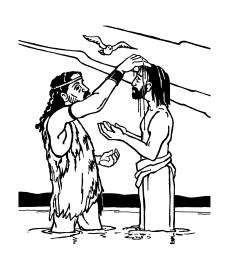


Sunday, January 12, 2024

Baptism of Our Lord



Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

Central Lutheran Church: Called to Share God's Love.

We're glad you are here! Help us welcome you by signing a Welcome to Worship pad.

Please give the name of each person attending worship, including children.

Visitors, may we have your complete address?

Children 5 years and under are welcome in our worship services or in the nursery in room 4.

GATHERING
PRELUDE

"Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"

arr. Larry Shackley Debbie Pankow

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

You may face the baptismal font as the service begins. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

The offering plate is located on a table at the center back of the Sanctuary. We welcome your donations to support Central's ministries and beyond via cash, check, card via the Square app on the tablet at the table, or at our website at centluth.org. Thank you.

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OPENING HYMN ELW # 301

"Bright and Glorious Is the Sky"

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.**

KYRIE ELW SETTING SIX

ELW pp. 165-66

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.
 For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
 Lord, have mercy.

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. **Lord, have mercy.** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW SETTING SIX

ELW pp. 167-68

☐ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

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Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Glory to God in the highest in the

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

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.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

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.

Glory to God in the highest, Amen, amen.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

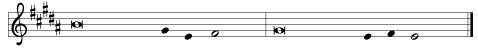
¹ But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴ Because you are precious in my

sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:12-20



¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ∥ ascribe to the LORD glo- Iry and strength.

² Ascribe to the LORD the glory ^{||}due God's name; || worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of [|] glory thunders; || the LORD is upon the [|] mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice; || the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the [|] cedar trees; || the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

6 the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf, | and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.

continues

⁷The voice | of the LORD | bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

8 The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness; |

the LORD shakes the wilder- ness of Kadesh."

- ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the ¹ forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood; || the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.
- ¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people; || give them, O LORD, the bless- ings of peace.

SECOND READING Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶

(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). 17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

by Richard Jeffrey "The Apple Tree" directed today by Debbie Pankow acc. Lisa Bulkow, flute

The tree of life my soul has seen, laden with fruit and always green. The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ, the apple tree. His beauty does all things excel. By faith I know, but ne'er can tell, The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ, the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought. I missed of all but now I see, 'tis found in Christ, the apple tree. (Good things I see in Christ the apple tree.) I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile. Under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ, the apple tree. This fruit does make my to thrive, it keeps my hying faith alive. It makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW SETTING SIX Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

ELW pp. 171

GOSPEL Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

The holy gospel according to Saint Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into

his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Bishop Timothy Oslovich

SERMON

Bishop Timothy Oslovich

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Called to Share God's Love

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VISION

Living out God's Grace and Love through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CORE VALUES

We are a congregation that

- is open to all,
- values a community of all ages,
- is grounded in scripture and sacrament.
- nurtures individual gifts,
- believes that everyone has something to offer,
- values involvement in the greater community,
- supports all in the challenges and celebrations of their lives, as God meets us where we are.

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS # 957

"Take Me to the Water"



APOSTLES' CREED

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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each petition ends: God of grace, hear our prayer.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 19
Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

We Ask Your Prayers for:

Alaska Native Lutheran; Anchorage Grace Korean; Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church;
Jan Adasiak, Rev. Sean Avery, Gary Bergman, Wendy Bergman, Jan Beverlin, Al Boecker,
Joe & Lisa Boecker, Lori Boecker, Yvonne Boecker, Harlan & Ella Braun, Erik Bryant,
Maria Bulkow, Charlene Chanonto, Betsy Cooper, Kathy Earhart, Dixie Foley, Shannon Foley,
Rev. Mark Galbraith, Dianne Hillemeyer, Mark Johnson, Pete Kropidlowski, Dee Lambert, Ed &
Donna Luiten, Ed Mjolsnes, Arne & Norma Mjolsnes, Kurt and Anne Pasch, Marlene Rapp, John
Rogers, Kristina Slater, Lynn Soiseth, Remi Thrasher, Lee & Jackie van Horn, Andrea Vancil, Bob
Voris, Bobbi Whitmire, Mark Wohlgemuth, Mary Wolter, Kallen Young, Kariana
Please pray for the families of those who've died: Bill Kostecki (brother in law of Eva Wissmann),
Larry Menkens (father of Stacey Menkens), Calvin Whitmire (Paul Harris's stepdad)

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

MEAL

PEACE

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

OFFERING

The offering plate is located on a table at the center back of the Sanctuary. We welcome your donations to support Central's ministries and beyond via cash, check, card via the Square app on the tablet at the table, or at our website at centluth.org.

Thank you.

Please stand.

OFFERTORY BY BELL CHOIR

"Gigue"

by Douglas E. Wagner directed by Debbie Pankow

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand.

Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS ELW SETTING SIX

ELW p. 173

 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Lord gives us a meal and gives us a prayer. We pray together:

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.

† Invitation to the Meal †

This is not Central's table, not a Lutheran table; this is God's table, and you are all welcome.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table, whether you are a member or a guest. Today we commune in a walking style. If for any reason you would prefer to receive a blessing in lieu of receiving communion, please hold your hand over your heart. You are invited to take time for prayer at the altar rail after taking communion. Gluten-free wafers are available on the tray at the first pew.

Votive candles are available to light in memory of loved ones in the stand on the left side of the altar. Please use the Oil Candle Lighter. It is the small metal box with two removable metal wands. Each wand has a wick on one end that is kept moist with oil from inside the box. Light the wick end of the wand from an already lit votive candle. After lighting a new votive candle, blow out the flame on the wand and place it back into the container, which will re-wet the wick with new oil. Please do not let the wick burn for a long time, as it will use up the oil in the wand and the wick will actually start to burn (which we do not want). Please do not pick up the votive candles to light them. Let each worshipper re-light and extinguish the wand at their turn; do not pass the burning wand to another person.

LAMB OF GOD ELW SETTING SIX

ELW p. 174

□ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW # 456

"Baptized in Water"

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace and peace. **Amen.**

SENDING_

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW # 543

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God † bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern"

arr. Dieterich Buxtehude Debbie Pankow

Worship:

We worship each Sunday at 9:30 am. Our preachers and presiders this month are: Bishop Tim Oslovich on January 12, and Rev. Bill Maury-Holmes (ANLC's interim pastor) on January 19 and 26.

Study:

Confirmation class and kids' and adult faith formation classes resume Sunday evenings, January 12 - February 16. We'll meet 4 - 5:30 pm at Lutheran Church of Hope for this six-week series. The focus will be on the sixth through tenth Commandments.

The **Early AM Study** continues with weekly meetings via zoom at 7 am Tuesdays to study The David Story by Robert Alter.

The **Divine Drama** adult ed class resumes with the same class offered each week first on Tuesday evening, 6:30 to 8 pm, and again on Wednesday, Noon to 1:30 pm, both in person and via zoom.us.

A **new adult ed class** with Craig Carlson will begin Sunday, January 26, and follows worship. Craig's class will be After Augustine – Before Luther: The Mid-life Crisis of Christianity

Ladies, our monthly *Gather* Bible study meets at 2 pm on 2nd Mondays, next on January 13. Bring a Gather magazine or share ours.

Book Group is reading <u>Becoming Mrs.</u> <u>Lewis</u> by Patti Callahan. Discuss with friends on Monday, January 20, at 4:30 pm.

Fellowship:

LSSA's **Golden Connections**, led by Deacon Linda Bender, offers opportunities for food, fellowship and fun. On Wednesday, January 15, Chef Alan Lorimer will be holding a cooking class from 11:30 am - 1 pm here at Central. Chef Alan always has lots of great ideas and recipes to share plus we get to share the food he makes. Reservations for the events can be made online at www.lassalaska.org/gc or call 907-272-0643. Deacon Linda will also be happy to add you to the list. Come and join us, we would love to see you.

Join our multi-generational group of **pickle-ball** players. We play most Tuesdays in the Fellowship Hall, often 4:45-6:15 pm. Text Christi at 646.710.0805 for details. All skill levels welcome—invite a friend—need not be a Central member!

Call Process:

January 12, Bishop Tim will lead a Q & A on the call process with us, following our 9:30 am worship service. We will vote to elect our Call Committee members at the January 19 Annual Congregational Meeting

Annual Congregational Meeting:
Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, January 19, following worship.

Serve:

Year-round, we collect shelf-stable **foods for LSSA Food Pantry**. Our January focus will be soups and chilies—both canned and dried soup mixes.

Can YOU **provide a meal** for Pastor Mark during his recovery period? Dates are TBA as we see how quickly he can safely return home, but we'd love to have a list at the office of folks we can call when ready for a one- or two- serving meal that is primarily lean meat and vegetables / fruits.

Fourth Thursdays of the month, we provide the evening meal to the residents of Clare House women's and children's shelter. THANK YOU to the Hillemeyer family for sponsoring the December 26 meal. In January, let's collect a variety of casseroles for January 23. Contact the Church office to provide one or the sides.

News:

Our Helping Hands Clothing Closet continues to welcome visitors about eight days monthly who are in need of socks, gloves, blankets, backpacks, outdoor gear, and clothing -- the fastest to go are smaller adult sizes. Donations may be new or used but usable, and are welcome during closet hours, office hours, or worship services.

5th - 12th grade youth, plan now to join the Synod Youth Summer Trip to Fairbanks, June 23 - 27

Thank you to our worship leaders today:

Worship leader: Rev. Tim Oslovich, Bishop

Choir Director: Tai Wai Li
Musician: Debbie Pankow
Assisting Minister: Karen Voris
Lector: volunteer
A/V Wrangler: John Bulkow
Projectionist: Carol Norquist

Sunday 1/12

- 9:30 am **WORSHIP SERVICE with Bishop Tim Oslovich** (Sanctuary) or via centluth.org followed by **Q&A with Bishop Tim on Call Process** (Sanctuary)
- 11 am KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP SERVICE (Small Chapel, Community Room)
- 2 pm ANLC WORSHIP SERVICE (Sanctuary)
- 4 5:30 pm Confirmation & Faith Formation classes @ Lutheran Church of Hope

Monday 1/13

Russian tutoring meets most days in rooms 3-4

- 2 pm Women's *Gather* Bible Study (Church office)
- 5 pm In Our Backyard meeting (Cordova Room)
- 5:30 8 pm Anchorage Youth Orchestra rehearsal (Fellowship Hall, etc.)

Tuesday 1/14

7 am Early AM Study of The David Story via zoom.us

- 1 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open (HH Closet)
- 4 7 pm Alaska Children's Choir (Room 8)
- 4:45 6:15 pm Pickleball (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 8 pm The Divine Drama study (Community Room) and via zoom.us

Wednesday 1/15

8:30 - 10 am Coffee Klatsch @ Kaladi Bros. on Brayton

11:30 am - 1 pm LSSA Golden Connections cooking class (Fellowship Hall)

Noon - 1:30 pm The Divine Drama study (Community Room) and via zoom.us

2 pm KOREÁN PRESBYTERIAN WORŚHIP SERVIĆE (Smáll Chapel)

5:45 pm Bell Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary)

7 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday 1/16

10 am - 1 pm Log Cabin Quilters (Fellowship Hall)

Bible studies & meetings Zoom.us meeting ID 963 8911 9335

Friday 1/17

2 pm KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP SERVICE (Small Chapel)

Saturday 1/18

9:30 - 10:30 am WW Meeting (Community Room)

(earlier set up) Noon - 3 pm Eddie's AA Monthly Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

11 am - 2 pm Foot & Wound Clinic open (Balcony)

11:30 am - 1:30 pm NAMI (Community Room)

Noon - 2 pm Listening Post open (Balcony)

1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open (HH Closet)

Sunday 1/19

9:30 am WORSHIP SERVICE with Rev. Bill Maury-Holmes (Sanctuary) or via centluth.org followed by Annual Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)

- 11 am KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP SERVICE (Small Chapel, Community Room)
- 2 pm ANLC WORSHIP SERVICE (Sanctuary)
- 4 5:30 pm Confirmation & Faith Formation classes @ Lutheran Church of Hope

Worship online via centluth.org