

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:

Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Vince Besesnjak, Joan Clarke, Chuck Dickey, Bill Flick, Barbara Fossa, Alan Fugo and family, Donna Franz, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Karen Kipfsthul, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Barbara Mingee, Phyllis Nemeth, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Ginny Robinson, Steve Senderak, Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Maud Wright, Charlotte Zaranka, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

Last Week

General Fund receipts for week ending 12/28/2025: \$ 1345.00

General Fund receipts for Christmas Eve 1147.00

General Fund receipts for week ending 1/4/2026: \$2157.00



Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday, January 11, 2026

9:00 am

Welcome to the Lutheran Church of the Covenant!

Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns. An asterisk * indicates when you are invited to stand, as you are comfortable.

All are welcome to come forward for communion. The ushers will guide you. Juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please let your server know if you need either of these.

A basket for offerings is at the rear of the sanctuary.

A children's table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you'll find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in worship.

Serving in Worship Today

Presiding Minister

Rev. Andrea McDonough

Organist

Gerry Mass

Assisting Minister

Ted Lockmiller

Lector

Karen Zack

Crucifer

Adrian Bernardo

Parish Administrator

Jennifer Lasher-Dobush

Custodian

Vince Besednjak

*Sending Hymn: The Spirit Sends Us Forth To Serve

ELW # 551



1 The Spir - it sends - us forth to serve; we go in
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
joy - like seed and, all our days, to
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to share the poor, God's fa - vor to blind pro - claim.
cher - ish dream and help the lov - ing see.
pow - ered life, to do go the in sus', deed.
 us; we go in Je - name.

Text: Delores Dufner, oss, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

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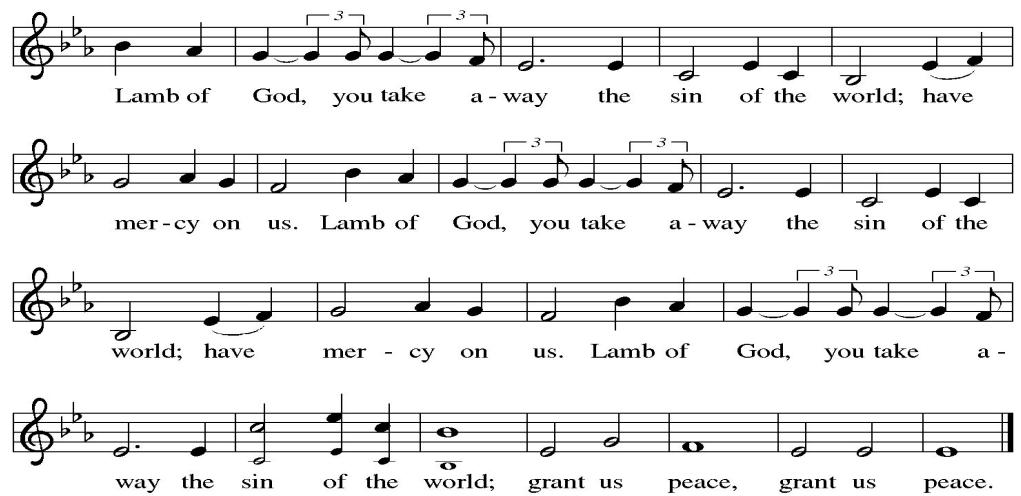
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*Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymn



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.

*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.**

*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.**

Baptism Of Our Lord— January 11, 2026

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

This earth, O God, is our home, built by your Word and your breath. Made alive by you, we come to know you and to know ourselves as your people. **We give you thanks.**

We drink your cooling waters. **We give you thanks.**

We see your rivers, lakes, and oceans lush with creatures large and small, food for the eye and for our nourishment. **We give you thanks.**

We bathe and are refreshed in the waters you have made. **We give you thanks.**

Now gathered at baptismal water, a sign of your unending mercy, we praise you for the gift of your Son who in his life, death, resurrection, and ascension embraced the world, calling us to proclaim the good news that welcomes all people. **Make us one in you** We praise you for the gift of prayer that allows us to hear you speak in our midst and gives us words when we are speechless with joy.

Make us one in you.

We praise you for the waters that bring us to this day, to celebrate a new and renewed life in your name. **Make us one in you.**

Come, Holy Spirit, into your people, through the holy Word, by waters blessed. To you be all honor, glory, and gratitude, through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Gathering Hymn: Shall We Gather at The River ELW # 423

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain
Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899
Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

***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.**

*Communion Prayer

*The Lord's Prayer

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

*Offertory Payer

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 be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

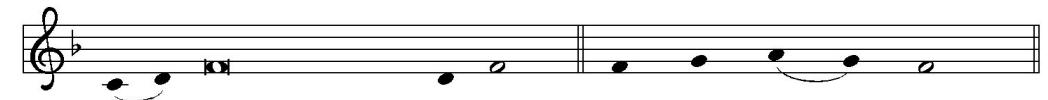
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

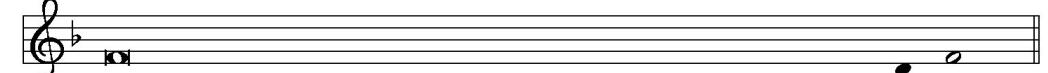
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus (next page)

*Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

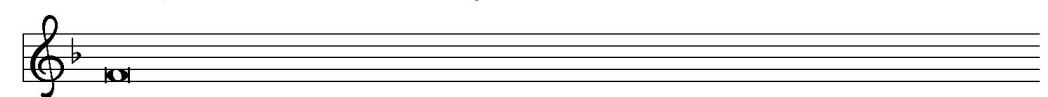


For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord,

have mercy.

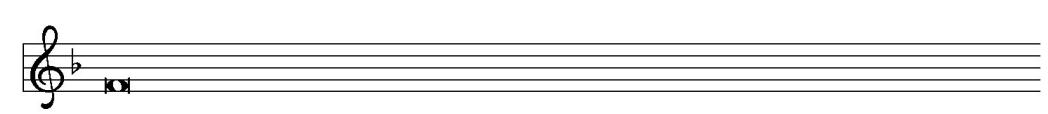


For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

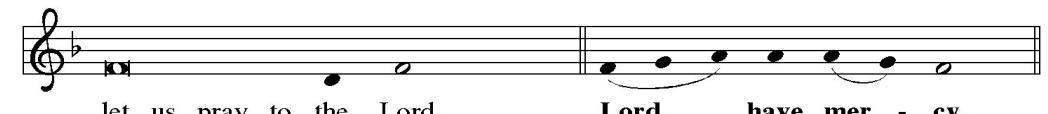


Lord,

have mercy.

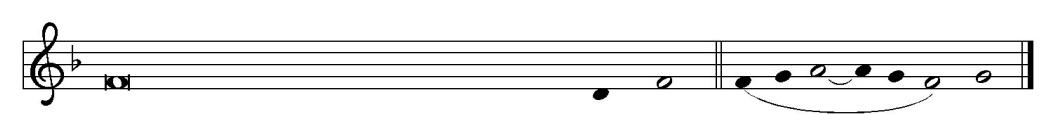


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise: Glory to God

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - migh-ty God and Fa-ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

*Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

*Offertory Hymn: Voices Raised to You ELW# 845

(please stand as the offering is brought forward)

1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your
5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the
songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,
thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—
for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

Prayers of the People

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.

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. 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.**

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:
have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right
hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.
A - men, a - men.

*Prayer of the Day

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.**

Children's Moment

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

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.
² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;
³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
⁵ 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:
⁶ 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,

*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,
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.**

***Hymn of the Day: When Jesus Came to the 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 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 So Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the all who mourn their sins,
came when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,
share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,



to the hid - den years had end - ed, the which good news be - gins.
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune
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a light to the nations,
7 to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
8 I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
9 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

Ascribe to the ¹ LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- ¹ ry and strength.
2 **Ascribe to the LORD the glory ¹ due God's name;**
worship the LORD in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness.
3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of ¹ glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the ¹ mighty waters.
4 **The voice of the LORD is a pow- ¹ erful voice;**
the voice of the LORD is a ¹ voice of splendor.
5 The voice of the LORD breaks the ¹ cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- ¹ dars of Lebanon;
6 **the LORD makes Lebanon skip ¹ like a calf,**
and Mount Hermon like a ¹ young wild ox.
7 The voice ¹ of the LORD
bursts forth in ¹ lightning flashes.
8 **The voice of the LORD ¹ shakes the wilderness;**
the LORD shakes the wilder- ¹ ness of Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are ¹ crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned a- ¹ bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- ¹ evermore.

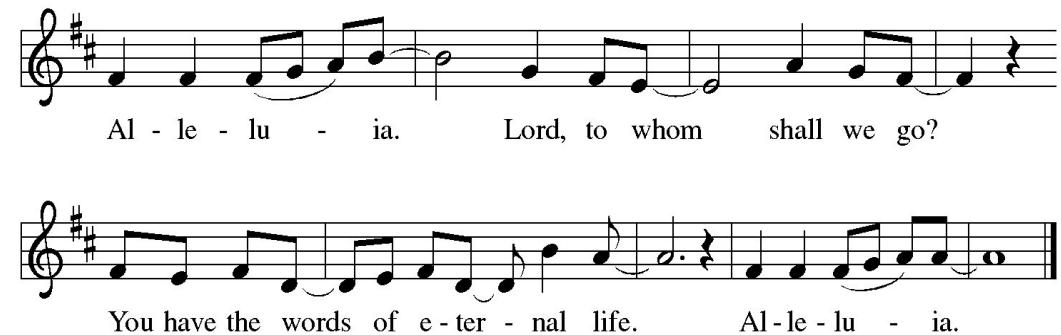
¹¹ O LORD, give strength ¹ to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- ¹ ings of peace.

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

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



*Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you O Lord.**

¹³ 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 fulfill 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 God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ 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**

Sermon