

Baptism of Our Lord

January 12th, 2025 ~ 8:30am



+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +
2451 Saucon Valley Rd. Center Valley, PA 18034

Office: 610-865-4144

The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell, Pastor ~ 610-762-2139

Quinette Brucker, Dir. of Music/Organist



(Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

***Opening Litany** (by Laura Jaquith Bartlett)

P: Creator of the universe, we stand amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name.

C: We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

P: Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God.

C: Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world.

P: Hear the words of our creator, spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "I have called you by name. You are mine. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you." Amen.

***Opening Hymn #423 "Shall We Gather at the River"**

***The Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

P: 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.

P: Let us pray. ~ 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.**

The 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."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29 (read responsively, lector then congregation)

¹ Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

² **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

³ The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

—————>

- ⁴ The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**
- ⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶ the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷ The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- ⁸ The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness 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 crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
- ¹¹ O Lord, give strength to your people;
give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

The 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel Acclamation (sung by all)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*The Holy Gospel ~ Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

The Holy Gospel according to the 3rd chapter of St. 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.**

The Sermon

*Hymn #453

"Baptized and Set Free"

*The Apostles' Creed (professed together)

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.

*Prayer of the Church

After each prayer petition, please respond:

P: God of grace ... C: Receive our prayer.

Anthem

“Wade in the Water”

The Blessing of the Communion Elements



The Lord's Prayer (traditional ~ prayed by all)

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

Communion will be distributed by method of intinction,; that is, the wafer will be dipped in the chalice so that both elements are received together.

Post-Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

P: We give You thanks, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

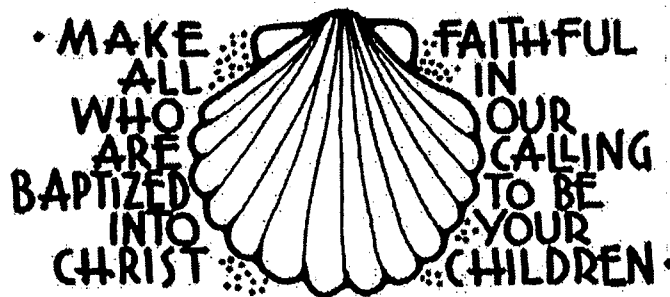
P: The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Hymn #456

“Baptized in Water”

*The Dismissal

Postlude Music



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*thank
you*

... to Kevin Filler for serving as our lector

... Diane Ernst for serving as our usher

... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech



To be remembered in prayer ... Leona Callahan, Sharon Edwards, Cathy Filler, Hope Geary, Helen Kerositz, Kathleen Tuomela May, Zachary, people living in war-torn countries, and others whom we name before God.

 **2025 Altar Flower Sponsors** 

The 2025 altar flower chart is now posted on the bulletin in the narthex hallway. The cost per weekly sponsorship is \$31.80 (payable to Coopersburg Country Flowers). With the flowers, you are also consenting to sponsor the bulletins (cost \$9).

Please write your name and dedication clearly on the flower chart. Many thanks!

