



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord

Order of Worship Today is Divine Service Setting One LSB, p. 151ff.

Preparation

The “epiphany,” the showing forth or manifestation of Jesus as the Messiah, the Savior of the world, began with the coming of the Magi from the East. This “epiphany” now continues as our Lord’s active earthly ministry begins at the hands of His predecessor John the Baptist and His Baptism in the Jordan River. As the Holy Spirit comes upon His human flesh and the voice from heaven declares Him to be the Son of God, so our Baptism gives us “the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God” (*John 1:12–13*). To be thus “born again” is nothing less than to have heaven opened to us with the power of God’s gifts of faith, hope, love, and the perseverance to live as God’s children now albeit as “strangers and exiles on the earth” (*Hebrews 11:13*), yet as “fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (*Ephesians 2:19*). “I’m but a stranger here,” says the hymn, “Heav’n is my home” (*LSB 748:1*).

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn *“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” (LSB 394)*

**1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem
In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.**

**2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana wedding guest
In Thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow'r divine,
Changing water into wine;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.**

**3 Manifest in making whole
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight,
Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will,
Ever bringing good from ill;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.**

**4 Sun and moon shall darkened be,
Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine,
All will see His glorious sign;
All will then the trumpet hear,
All will see the Judge appear;
Thou by all wilt be confessed,
God in man made manifest.**

**5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,
Present in Thy holy Word—
Grace to imitate Thee now
And be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we might become like Thee
At Thy great epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.**

The Invocation and Opening Sentences

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: With these words you are baptized into Christ and given the new birth of water and the Spirit.

C: **So shall we stand in faith without fear now and forever.**

Confession and Absolution

P: Yet even as God's people in this world, when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find that we daily struggle against our weakness and sin that so easily besets us. Therefore, let us confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

Silence for reflection.

C: God our Father, though You have made us Your own possession by our Baptism into Christ, still we struggle to live as Your redeemed children in this fallen world. Therefore, we confess our sin and weakness to You and in repentance pray You of Your mercy to forgive our sins and grant us Your grace and strength.

P: The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And, also with you.

P: Let us pray. Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 43:1–7 (Israel's only Savior)

43 But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

“Fear not, 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,

Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my eyes,

and honored, and I love you,

I give men in return for you,

peoples in exchange for your life.

⁵ Fear not, 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 up,
and to the south, Do not withhold;
bring my sons from afar
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.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm Reading

Psalm 29; antiphon: v. 3

P: The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

C: **the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over many waters.**

P: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,

C: **ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**

P: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name;

C: **worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.**

P: The Voice of the Lord is over the waters;

C: **the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over many waters.**

P: The Voice of the Lord is powerful;

C: **The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

P: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;

C: **The Lord sits enthroned as king forever.**

P: The voice of the Lord is powerful;

C: **The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

P: The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

C: **the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over many waters.**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression
And rule in equity.**

**2 He comes with rescue speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in His sight.**

**3 He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth.
Before Him on the mountains
Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.**

**4 Kings shall fall down before Him
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all people sing.
To Him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.**

**5 O'er ev'ry foe victorious,
He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever—
That name to us is Love.**

The Epistle Lesson

Romans 6:1–11 (Dead to sin, alive to God)

6 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Proclamation (Please rise. Sung from page 156.)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the third chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.** (Sung from Page 157)

The Holy Gospel

Luke 3:15–22 (The heavens were opened.)

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. 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 barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to You, O Christ.** (Sung from Page 157)

Hymn of the Day *“To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord”* (LSB 405)

**1 To Jordan’s river came our Lord,
The Christ, whom heav’nly hosts adored,
The God from God, the Light from Light,
The Lord of glory, pow’r, and might.**

**2 The Savior came to be baptized—
The Son of God in flesh disguised—
To stand beneath the Father’s will
And all His righteousness fulfill.**

**3 As Jesus in the Jordan stood
And John baptized the Lamb of God,
The Holy Spirit, heav’nly dove,
Descended on Him from above.**

**4 Then from God’s throne with thund’rous sound
Came God’s own voice with words profound:
“This is My Son,” was His decree,
“The one I love, who pleases Me.”**

**5 The Father’s word, the Spirit’s flight
Anointed Christ in glorious sight
As God’s own choice, from Adam’s fall
To save the world and free us all.**

**6 Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;
This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan’s stream,
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.**

Children’s Message

Sermon

Pastor Jacob T. May

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Commissioning of Officers

The Prayers of the Church

P: Gracious and merciful God, as the heavens were opened at the Baptism of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, so You have opened the very heavens to us as Your baptized people. Give to us the confidence of faith and the power of Your love that we may live as Your children even now amid the changes of this fallen world, ever rejoicing in Your constant mercy and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Grant Your constant blessing upon Your whole Church. Give wisdom and confidence to all pastors and servants of Your Word and faithfulness and love to all Your people that Your truth may sound forth and prevail in our lives and through our service in the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Preserve our nation in the ways of righteousness and peace. Guide the leaders of all nations to pursue justice and peace. Guard and protect all who serve in the armed forces of our country, and all who protect us in our land. Grant to all faithfulness in their service. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Comfort and help all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or adversity, [*especially . . .*]. Have mercy on all to whom death draws near, [*especially . . .*]. Sustain and bless all who care for those who suffer. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors, [*especially . . .*]. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord who has taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Offering

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

“As with Gladness Men of Old” (LSB 397)

**1 As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee.**

**2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.**

**3 As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.**

**4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.**

**5 In the heav'nly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.**

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C: We will! Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Mailing Address

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MISSION STATEMENT

Reaching God's community by seeking His direction and together growing in His love.

VISION STATEMENT

We reach God's community by supporting each other in our faith, encouraging others to join with us, and sharing our many blessings with the community.