



Jesus' Baptism
January 18, 2026



The Gathering

*The assembly's parts are in **bold type**.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus comes to the waters of baptism, standing among us.

The heavens open, and God's voice is heard.

As Jesus is named Beloved, so are we held in that same love.

Come, let us worship the One who names us and claims us.

Choral Anthem

Gather by the River to Pray

Messiah Choir

*As I went down to the river to pray, studying' about that good ole way,
and who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord, show me the way.*

(Repeat)

O brother, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

O brother, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

*Shall we gather at the river where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God.*

*Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down,
grace our spirits will deliver and provide a robe and crown.*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God...*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

We praise you, O God, for this font, for you breathe into this water to wash away sin and birth us anew into your peace and joy. We praise you, O God, for water! O God, you are the Ocean, the source of all life. O God, you are the River, saving us from death. O God, you are the Stream, restoring our community's strength. We praise you, O God, Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit, today, tomorrow, and forever. **Amen.**

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.**

The Word

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

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

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: 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, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. 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.

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

The gospel according to Matthew 3:13-17.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 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. 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. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

This is the gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY

Baptized in Water

ELW 456



1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



gift of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise 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. God of grace,

you hear 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.

God of grace,

you hear 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. God of grace,

you hear 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, especially those we now name out loud or silently in our hearts. *(30 seconds of silence)* God of grace,

you hear 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. God of grace,

you hear 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. God of grace,

you hear our prayer.

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 GOD'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Meal

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, receive these gifts we bring. Bless them for the work of your love in the world, and shape us into generous people, following Jesus Christ.

Amen.

INVITATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

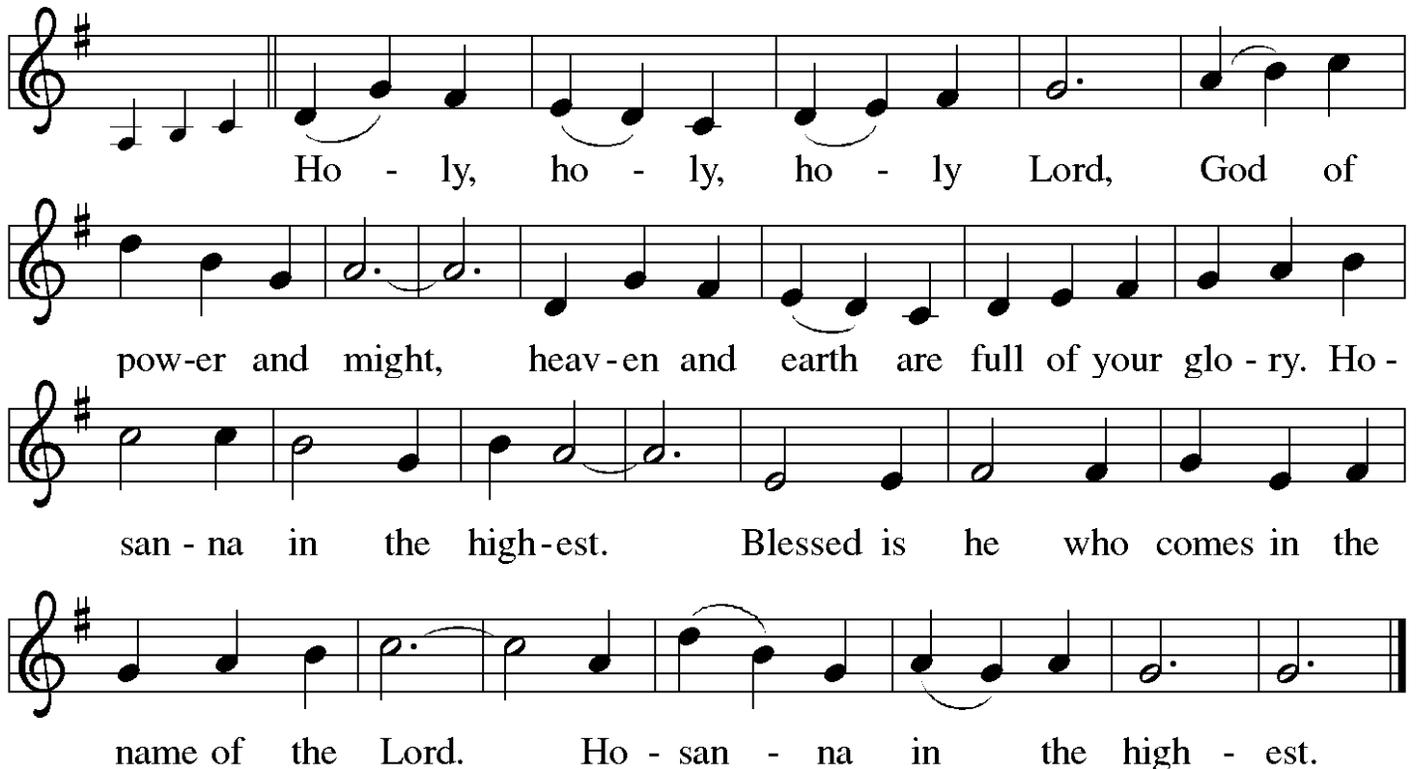
Lift up your hearts.

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. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal, and make us one in this community of faith and with your people worldwide. **Amen.**

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Sending

BLESSING

Almighty God, Parent, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

We Shall Not Be Moved

**Refrain: We shall not, we shall not be moved,
we shall not, we shall not be moved.
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
we shall not be moved.**

**The church of God is marching, we shall not be moved.
The church of God is marching, we shall not be moved.
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
we shall not be moved. (Refrain)**

**On the road to freedom, we shall not be moved.
On the road to freedom, we shall not be moved.
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
we shall not be moved. (Refrain)**

**Walking with our Savior, we shall not be moved.
Walking with our Savior, we shall not be moved.
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
we shall not be moved. (Refrain)**

DISMISSAL

**Go with Christ into the world. Share the Good News.
Thanks be to God and we will!**

POSTLUDE

**Preacher: Rev. Courtney Geibert Minister of Music: Terry Williams
Pianist: Tony Marriott**

**Art: Baptism Of God Jesus Christ by Valery Rybakow
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