

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Baptism of Our Lord

January 11, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.



In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

***We thank Pastor Paul Townsend
for leading today's Worship Service.***

Pastor Christian McMullan
Daniel S. Bower, Music Director
Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

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WELCOME

Please stand

GREETING

P: The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN

The River

To the river I am going
Bringing sins I cannot bear
Come and cleanse me come forgive me
Lord I need to meet You there

In these waters healing mercy
Flows with freedom from despair
I am going to that river
Lord I need to meet You there

Precious Jesus I am ready
To surrender ev'ry care
Take my hand now lead me closer
Lord I need to meet You there

Come and join us in the river
Come find life beyond compare
He is calling He is waiting
Jesus longs to meet you there
He is calling He is waiting
Jesus longs to meet you there

Precious Jesus I am ready
To surrender ev'ry care
Take my hand now lead me closer
Lord I need to meet You there

Take my hand now lead me closer
Lord I need to meet You there

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

**C: you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.**

We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.

**We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.**

Turn us to seek your face.

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.**

Amen.

P: The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.

May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: 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 children, 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.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

A: A reading from the Book of Isaiah, the forty-second chapter.

- ¹ 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,
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.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SECOND READING

Acts 10: 34-44, 47-48

A: A reading from the Book of Acts, the tenth chapter.

³⁴Peter 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.”

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁷ [Then Peter said:] “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

C: **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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

MESSAGE: This is the ONE

Pastor Paul Townsend

Please stand

HYMN

Wade in the Water, ELW 459

Call and response, Congregation sings in Bold

Refrain, sung by all:

Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

Band: See that host all dressed in white,

C: God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

Band: the leader looks like the Israelite.

C: God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. Refrain

Band: See that band all dressed in red,

C: God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

Band: looks like the band that Moses led.

C: God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. Refrain

Band: Look over yonder, what do I see?

C: God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

Band: the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.

C: God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. Refrain

Band: If you don't believe I've been redeemed,

C: God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

Band: just follow me down to Jordan's stream.

C: God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. Refrain

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: 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.

THE PRAYERS

P: 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.

A brief silence.

P: ...Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please be seated

THE OFFERING

Please stand

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

In gratitude to God we give out of the abundance that God has given us.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: 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.
C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: Blessed are you, O Holy God:
You are the Life and Light of all .
By your powerful word you created all things.
Through the prophets you called your people Israel to be a light to the nations.
Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.
He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.
 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.
Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing,
his dying and rising, and his promise to come again,
we await that day when all things will be restored and reconciled by you.
By your Spirit bless us and this meal,
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
we may be light for the world,

revealing the brilliance of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy church,
both now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray together our Lord's Prayer:

C: 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

Please be seated

COMMUNION

This is God's table so all are welcome to join the feast.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the testament 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.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

P: May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
✠ bless you now and forever.
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Jesus, Lead Me to Your Healing Waters

Chorus:

Jesus lead me to Your healing waters
Take me down to Your healing stream
Jesus lead me to Your healing waters
Take me down and wash me clean

Many days have gone
since I first loved You
Now I'm out here wanderin' on my own
Never have I known more that I need You
Than out here wanderin' all alone (*Chorus*)

Many days have gone
yet still I loved You
Never would I make it on my own
This life here and now is where I need You
And then up there is where I'm finally home (*Chorus*)

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. Walk humbly.
C: Thanks be to God.

St. Matthew's Staff

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