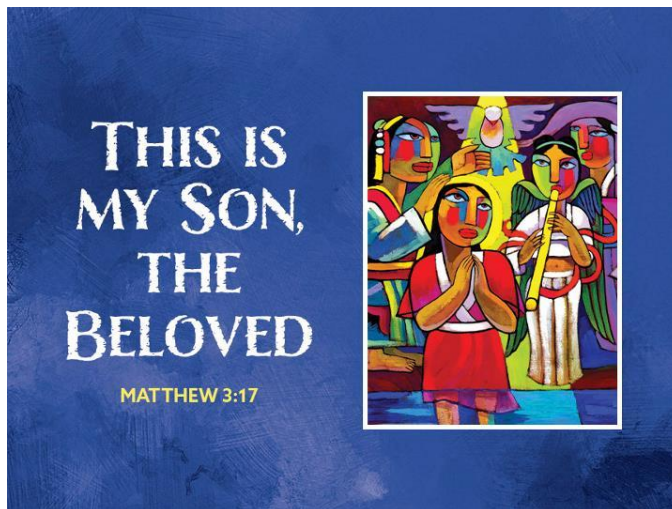




SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026  
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



### Introduction

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.

# GATHERING

## WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GATHERING MUSIC

### “HOUSE OF THE LORD”

Music and lyrics: Jonathan Smith, Phil Wickham  
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Music; Simply Global Songs Admin; Essential Music Publishing LLC

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is upon God’s chosen One, the servant who brings justice with gentleness and truth.

**People: We come to worship the God who calls us, who gives breath and spirit to all creation.**

Leader: At the Jordan River, the heavens opened, and a voice declared, “This is my beloved Son.”

**People: We gather to remember our baptism— to hear again that we are God’s beloved.**

Leader: Christ is the light to the nations, the One who opens eyes and frees hearts.

**People: Let us follow his way, walking in humility, justice, and peace.**

**All: Come, let us worship the Lord our God, who names us, claims us, and calls us beloved.**

## APOSTOLIC 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.**





1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,  
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,  
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,  
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom,

I



I will lift you from all your fear.  
 I am eyes for all who long to see.  
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
 am the peace the world can - not give.

(2) In the



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be  
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.  
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and  
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here.  
 Come and rest in me.  
 all will know my name.  
 up, now walk and live!

*To stanza 2**To refrain**To refrain**To refrain*

*Refrain*  
 Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine."

*To stanzas 3 and 4*

4 "I

## 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.**

## WORD

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

### FIRST READING

**ACTS 10:34-43**

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

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*

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

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Optional Repeat*

### GOSPEL

**MATTHEW 3:13-17**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### Standing in the Water With Us: A God Who Shows No Favorites

PASTOR DAVID YOUNG

1. What surprises you about Peter's realization in Acts 10: "God shows no partiality"?
2. How does Jesus stepping into the water with everyone else reinforce that message?
3. Where in your life do you most need to remember that Christ stands with you, not above you?

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### WADE IN THE WATER (ELW #459)

*Refrain*  
All



Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,



wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader



1 See that host all dressed in white,

All



2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the



3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?



4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,



wa - ter; looks like the lead - er looks like the Is - ra - 'lite,



the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me, Mo - ses led,



just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream,

All



God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

*Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WADE IN THE WATER, African American spiritual

## OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

## The Apostles' Creed

**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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end with "Merciful God." and the response will be **"receive our prayer."**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Siblings in Christ, in the waters of baptism, God claims us, names us, and calls us beloved. Not because we were worthy, not because we had everything figured out, but because God shows no favorites and because Christ stands in the water with us. Today we remember that we are not saved by our promises to God, but through God's promises to us.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to God for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters, And by your Word you created all things. You led your people Israel through the sea, from slavery into freedom. In the river Jordan, John baptized, and Jesus stood in the water with sinners, as you opened the heavens and declared: "This is my Son, the Beloved."

In these same waters, we have been claimed and named, joined to Christ, washed in mercy, and raised to new life. We praise you for the gift of water and Word, for the grace that is wider than our fears, and for the forgiveness that is deeper than our failures. Amen.

Join me now in remembering our baptism:

As you make the sign of the cross on your forehead, remember your baptism.

As you make the sign of the cross on your forehead, remember you are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

As you make the sign of the cross on your forehead, remember you are named as God's beloved child forever.

Gracious God,

**Keep us mindful of the gift of our baptism. When we feel unworthy, remind us we are beloved. When we feel distant, remind us Christ stands with us. When we are tempted to draw lines, remind us you have erased them. Send us out to live as people claimed by grace, and to welcome others as you have welcomed us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

### MEAL

## OFFERING

*Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the ongoing ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church! In-person gifts may be placed in the offering plates, mailed to Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church (2077 N. Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603), given online at [www.bethelwinchester.com](http://www.bethelwinchester.com) or using the adjacent QR code.*



## MUSIC FOR REFLECTION – DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY

## OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God,

**Everything in heaven and earth belongs to you . We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be the signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## THE 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.**

## PREFACE



## HOLY HOLY HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!



Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## JESUS' WORDS ABOUT COMMUNION

### LORD'S PRAYER



Our God \_\_\_\_\_ in heav-en, \_\_\_\_\_ ho - ly is your name, \_\_\_\_\_ your



reign come, \_\_\_\_\_ your will done, \_\_\_\_\_ on earth as in heav-en \_\_\_\_\_



Give us today our dai-ly bread, and help us forgive as we have been for - giv-en \_\_\_\_\_





Words: Matthew 6:9-13; adapt by Mark A Miller and Laurie Zelman Music: Mark A Miller Adapt and music ©2008 Abingdon Press admin by the Copyright Company

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Emmanuel.

### THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

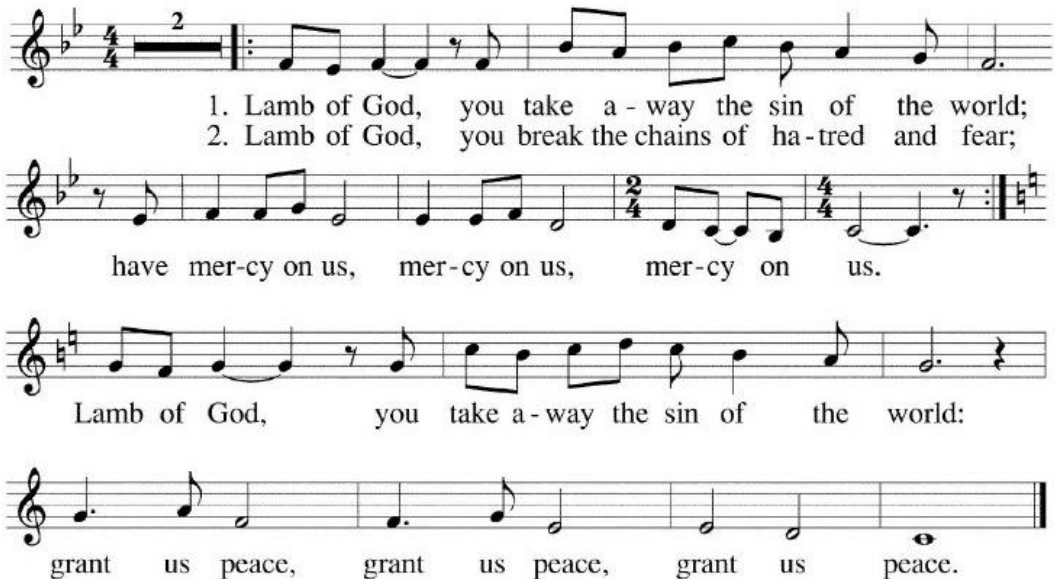
Welcome to the Lord's Table!

Everyone, regardless of age and denomination, is invited to join us for Holy Communion. If you prefer a blessing, simply inform the communion distributors. The ushers will direct your row when it is time to come forward.

You will receive the bread from the first Holy Communion distributor. You will pick up the cup of wine or juice from the tray held by the second distributor. For those who need gluten free a pre-packaged **gluten-free** wafer and a cup of **grape juice** is also available.

Once you have communed, you are invited to return to your seat for silent reflection or singing

## LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN

**“HOLY SPIRIT”**

Music and lyrics: Bryan Torwalt, Katie Torwalt  
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COMMUNION BLESSING

————— **SENDING** —————

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

**“THE BLESSING”**

Music and lyrics: Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Karl Jobs, Steven Furtick  
© 2020 Capitol CMG Paragon; Kari Jobe Carnes Music; Worship Together Music;  
Writer's Roof Publishing; Music by Elevation Worship Publishing

DISMISSAL

*Thank you for worshiping with us today.*

We hope every person felt welcomed here, especially our guests. We trust that our time together has filled you with a sense of joy and peace, and we invite you to return soon.

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**DAVID YOUNG, PASTOR**

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