



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Baptism of our Lord

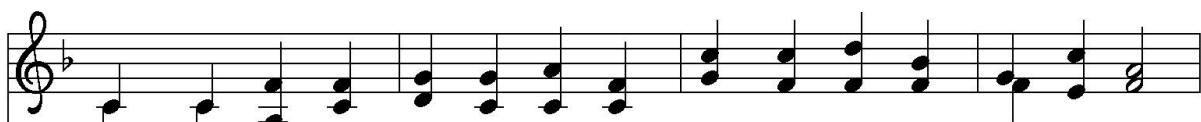


GATHERING

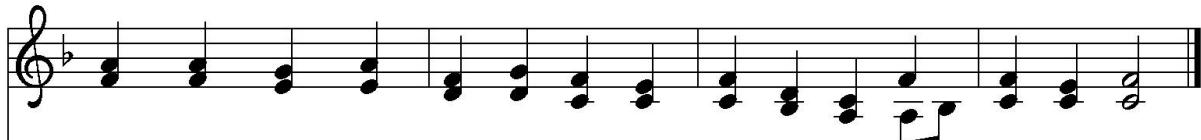
PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Crashing Waters at Creation



1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,
2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,
3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,
4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.
wash - ing off the chains of bond - age - chan - nel to a life made new.
o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.
Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

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***CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS**

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.

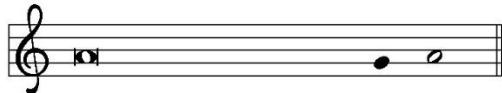
Mighty God, lover of justice,

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.**

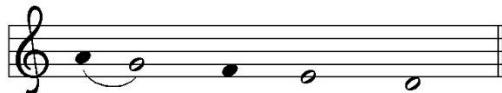
P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: **Amen.**

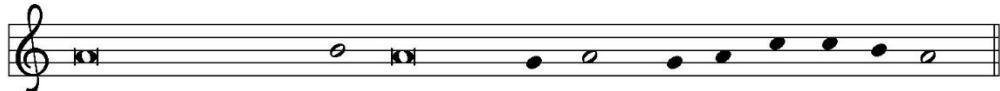
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



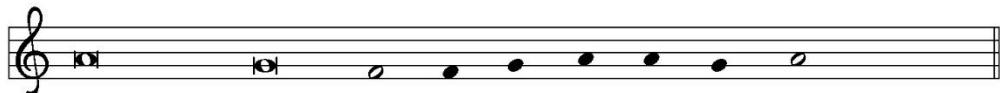
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



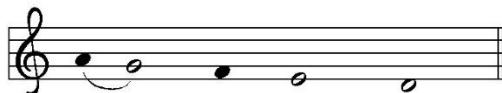
Lord, have mer - cy.



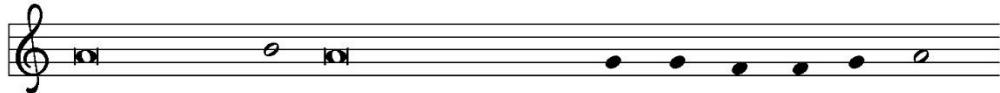
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Glory

Assisting minister

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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: 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.

C: Amen.

Choir Anthem

WORD

First Reading: 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.

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 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. 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, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 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. 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. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

***GRADUAL HYMN**

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

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

***GOSPEL**

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter, beginning with the 13th verse.

C: 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."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

HYMN OF THE DAY

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

***APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Let us now confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe 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 to the dead; on the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, and 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 life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: 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.
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. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer

A: 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. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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 Rosemary Rizzo, Tony Rizzo, Erin Jankowski, Dee Marinov, and all those we name in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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

PEACE

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

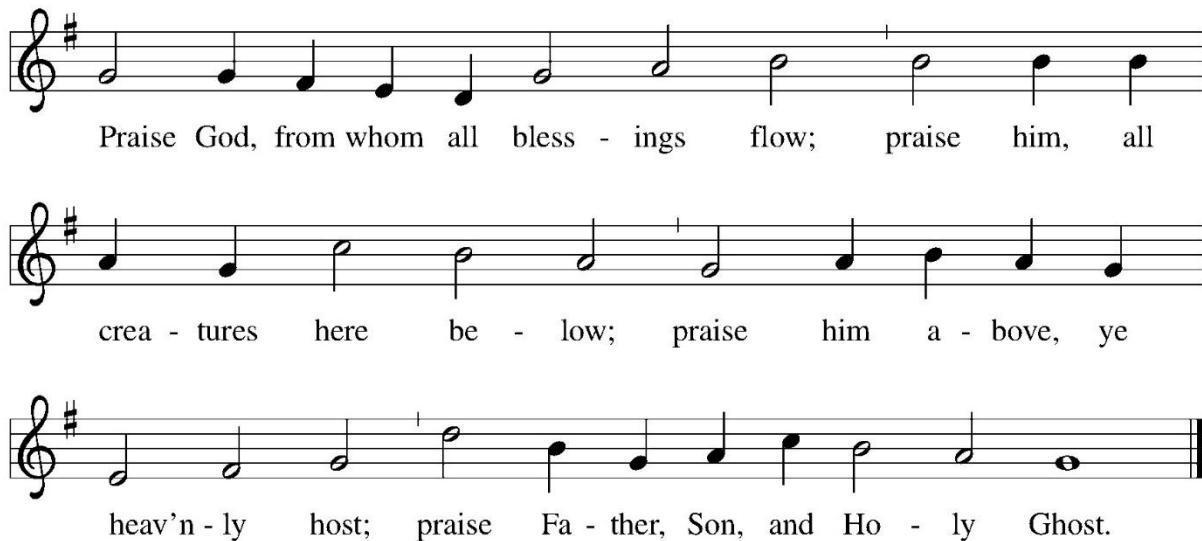
P: Let us share God's peace with each other now.

MEAL

OFFERING AND SETTING THE TABLE

***OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major, common time, and treble clef. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each line of text aligned with its corresponding musical phrase. The lyrics are:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: **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.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

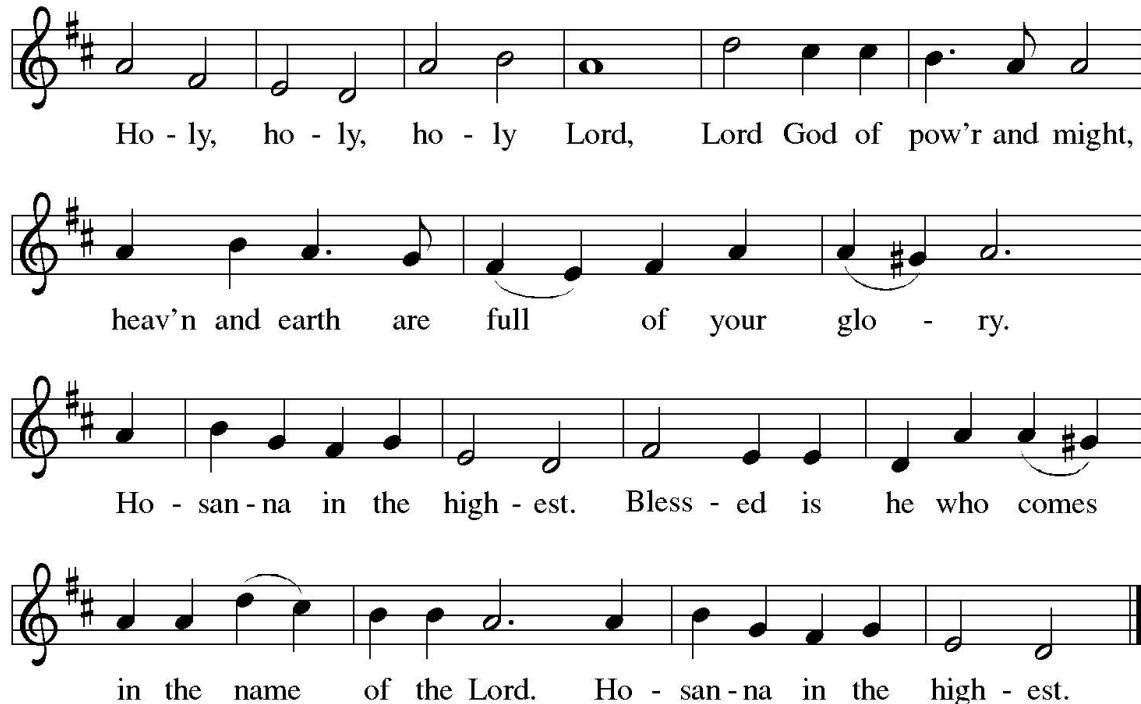
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*THE PROPER PREFACE

P: 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. And so, with all the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

P: 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.

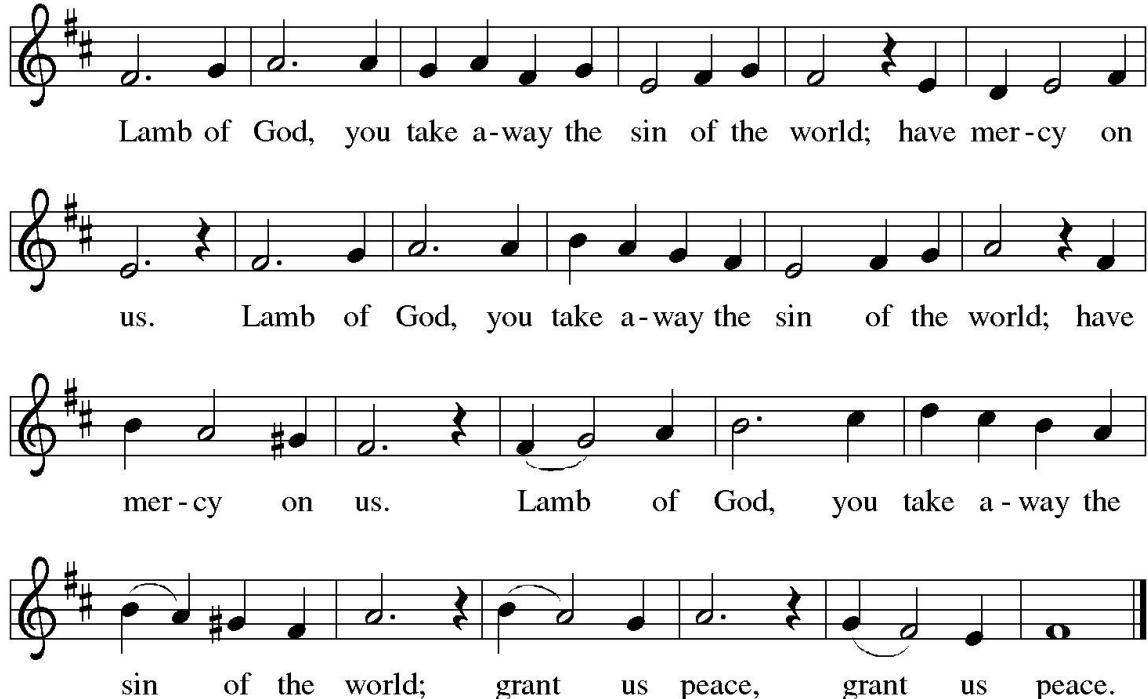
And so Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Lord Jesus taught us.

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.**

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION MUSIC



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. **Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have**

mer-cy on us. **Lamb of God, you take a-way the**

sin of the world; grant us peace, **grant us** **peace.**

COMMUNION HYMN

Spirit of Gentleness

Refrain

Spir - it, Spir - it of gen-tle-ness, blow through the wil-der-ness

call-ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest-less-ness,

stir me from plac-id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an- cient schemes.

then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;

and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:
and when they were blind - ed with i - dolls and lies,
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.

Refrain

"A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo-ple a - rise.

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940

Music: SPIRIT, James K. Manley

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SENDING

***PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

P: And now may this, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace forever.

C: Amen.

P: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

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

***BENEDICTION**

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 (See next page)

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SENDING HYMN

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G clef, with lyrics integrated into the staves. The lyrics are arranged in four stanzas, with the first three stanzas on the top staff and the fourth stanza on the middle staff. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and dynamic markings like 'p' (piano).

1 The Spir - it sends - us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel

Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
 share a dream and help the blind to see.
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
 pow - ered us; we go the in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

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*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

Acknowledgments

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**What do
you fear**
INSISTING ON HOPE THIS ADVENT

Announcements

WE PRAY FOR...

- Rosemary Rizzo - Tony Rizzo - Erin Jankowski -
-Dee Marinov- Diane Busdiecker-Elaine Wolffers-
-Brian Freeburg- Maryann and Chip Orlando-

George Troester- Son of Maureen Sieteski
Maya Chakraborty
Katherine Sikorski
Brooke- Great-niece of Annette Berg
Angela Roeser
Emily- Niece of Patty Walker
Frank Senn- Brother of Nancy Noble
Janice Darveau- Friend of Kathy Busdiecker
David Jinks- Sarah Kuehfus' Father
The family of Pete & Gayle Ciraolo- Vince
Ciraolo's cousin
Jessica Ekman- Friend of Karl and Judy Kristoff
Diane Byers- Friend of Nancy Stoehr
Reed White- Friend of Nancy Stoehr

The annual meeting of the St. Paul's congregation will take place on Sunday, January 25th following the service.



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ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Power of a God Who Is Humble

From the time Jesus first presented himself for baptism by John until today, Christians have puzzled over why Jesus had to be baptized. The act of baptism was understood to be an act of repentance and the cleansing of one's sins. John does not understand why Jesus, whose sandals John is "not worthy to carry" (Matt. 3:11) should seek to be baptized. Instead, John declares to Jesus, "I need to be baptized by you" (Matt. 3:14). Why should the Son of God, who is without sin, need to be baptized?

Frederick Dale Bruner, in *Matthew: A Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004), says that he considers Jesus' first miracle to have occurred at his baptism. The miracle is that Jesus was humble. The divine Son of God humbles himself by allowing John to baptize him. This act of humility is an act of obedience to God and solidarity with all humankind. Jesus has no sins to be forgiven. However, for us, he goes down to the river of repentance with all the other sinners to be baptized. Jesus' baptism, his first adult act as recorded in Matthew's gospel, gives us a clear indication of how Jesus will act for his entire life. The Son of God will come down with us, on our level, identifying with our needs. His baptism, then, foreshadows how his life will end, on the cross. In his death, Jesus experiences the worst we could ever experience as mortal humans. But, because Jesus united with us in baptism, we are united with him in both his death and resurrection. The barriers that separate us from God, including the barriers of sinfulness, mortality, and death, are broken by Jesus' obedience to God, through his humility to come down to us in the depths of our humanity.

PASTOR ASHLIN MARCHESI
PREACHER/PRESIDER

PATRICK GARD
ORGANIST

DAWN SAGERMAN
LITURGICAL ASSISTANT

DAVID JOHNSTON
LITURGICAL ASSISTANT

JOHN DOERFLER & JON OLSEN
USHERS

ANNETTE BERG & PAT NOWAK
ALTAR GUILD