

Bethlehem Lutheran Church



The Baptism of Our Lord *January 7, 2024*

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The Order of Service

Divine Service Setting One (LSB 184)

*(Please stand if you are able for portions of the liturgy marked with an *)*

Announcements

Opening Hymn: Hail to the Lord's Anointed **LSB 398**

Confession and Absolution* **LSB 184**

Introit*

(Ps. 89:1, 26-28; antiphon: Liturgical Text; Ps. 89:20)

Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come,

and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand.

I have found David, my servant;

with my holy oil I have anointed him.

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;

with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

He shall cry to me, "You are my Father,

my God, and the Rock of my salvation."

And I will make him the firstborn,

the highest of the kings of the earth.

My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,

and my covenant will stand firm for him.

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.

Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come,

and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand.

I have found David, my servant;

with my holy oil I have anointed him.

Kyrie*

LSB 186

Gloria in Excelsis*

LSB 187

Collect: 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. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Joshua 3:1-3, 7-8, 13-17

¹ Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. ² At the end of three days the officers went through the camp ³ and commanded the people, “As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it... ⁷ The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. ⁸ And as for you, command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, ‘When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.’”... ¹³ And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap.”¹⁴ So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, ¹⁵ and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), ¹⁶ the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

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

Gradual: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory!

Amen and Amen!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

Alleluia *

LSB 190

Holy Gospel*: Matthew 3:13-17

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter. **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, 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 thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

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

Nicene Creed*

LSB 191

Hymn of the Day: To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord

LSB 406

Sermon

Offertory*

LSB 192

Offering

Installation of Church Officers

Prayer of the Church*

Service of the Sacrament*

LSB 194

Distribution Hymns: 596, 405, 395, 396, 594

Nunc Dimittis*

LSB 199

Benediction*

Closing Hymn: Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

LSB 590

Announcements

What Does This Mean: As of January 6th, the church has moved out of the Season of Christmas and into the Season of Epiphany. So, what does the word ‘Epiphany’ mean? Epiphany means ‘to shine upon, to appear.’ This season shines light upon who Jesus is, that is He’s true God in human flesh and blood.

Church Council Meeting: There will be a church council meeting this Tuesday, January 9th at 7pm.

Voters’ Meeting: Our next voters’ meeting will be on Sunday, January 21st at 7pm.

Wednesday Religion Class: Just a reminder, Wednesday Religion Class starts up again this week at our normal time of 6pm.

Wednesday Religion Class: As mentioned in previous weeks, members of the church are invited to attend pastor’s Lutheran catechesis class in the preschool basement on Wednesday night beginning at 6pm. This is a great opportunity to review the basic tenants of what we believe, teach, and confess as Lutherans. This week our focus will be on *The Lord’s Prayer (1st, 2nd, & 3rd Petitions)*.

Annual Report: The time is drawing near for the Annual Report to be printed. If all organizations (Men’s Club, Ladies Aid, Agape Youth, Preschool, Cemetery Committee, Treasurers, Wednesday Night Religion and Confirmation, & any others I may have missed) would please get me their reports by **January 14th** so that I may put the report together by the January voter’s meeting. Thank You

Flower Chart: The flower chart for 2024 is up in the north office. Please stop by and sign up for any Sundays you would like to have flowers on the altar. Any questions please contact the Flower Committee.

Private Confession and Absolution: The Lutheran Confessions state that private absolution should be retained and not abolished in the churches (Augsburg Confession, XI). With this in mind, if at any time you desire private confession and absolution, please give Pastor Jennings a call to set-up a time to meet privately.

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