

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 11, 2026

WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Our service is printed for you in this worship folder. Or you can follow the projections on the front wall.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the worship space, as well as across the hall as you enter into the school.

Quiet room Parents may use the library in the back of this worship space which still enables you to hear/see the service.

A **Connection Card** and pen are found in the pocket of the chair in front of you. Time will be provided to fill it out during the service. You may drop it in the wicker basket along the wall after the service.

THEME: THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

An epiphany is a revealing of something - like when the light goes on and you say, "Aha!" In the Church calendar the Season of Epiphany provides many "aha moments" which reveal Jesus to be the true Messiah and promised Savior. Today, Jesus' baptism marks Him as the very Son of God and inaugurates him into his public ministry here on earth.

PLEASE RESPECT OUR PRACTICE OF "CLOSE COMMUNION"

Christ says the Sacrament is an expression of unity (1 Co 10:16-17). We WANT to be unified with you on the basis of Christ and His doctrine! Honesty compels us to ask you to WAIT before communing with us: 1) until you've had a chance to find out what we teach; 2) until you make your unity with us evident by membership at Peace. Regular classes are conducted for this purpose (837-5346). WELS & ELS guests please sign a Connection Card and give it to an usher before communing. Thank you.

To prepare for the Lord's Supper, you may wish to use pages 295-6 of the blue hymnal.

WHAT MAKES PSALM 45 APPROPRIATE FOR TODAY?

In our sung version of the psalm not all the verses are printed. We sing an abridged version of the psalm.

Christ's baptism serves as His official/public inauguration in His role as our Savior and Redeemer. He was anointed with the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 45 is a celebration psalm. It depicts Christ as a bridegroom at a wedding – but more than a bridegroom. He is also a king! A king about to get married! This psalm presents the groom and suggests, "Let's admire how gallant and charming and kingly He is!" *You are the most excellent of men!*

The second half of the psalm presents the bride. Who is Christ's bride? The Church! The psalm presents the bride and suggests, "Let's admire how beautiful she is!" (Of course, her beauty is not her own. It is projected onto her by the Groom. He gives her His own righteousness so that she no longer looks stained and dirty to God, but rather holy and beautiful.) *The king is enthralled by your beauty!*

The psalm predicts their happily-ever-after future: *Your sons will take the place of your fathers; you will make them princes throughout the land.*

Christ's baptism is just such an occasion where God the Father spoke and said, "Have a look at my Son! Isn't He something?" Yes, indeed, He is! He is our Champion and Bridegroom who has come to bring us into His own Kingdom and Home.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider..... Rev. Jordan Ertl
Sermon Rev. Luke C. Werre
Accompanist.....Mrs. Monica Wintrone
Projection SlidesBrittany Kuehl

SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT

OPENING HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty | **CW 483**

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me a sinner.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.¹

Amen.

¹ This is a deliberate reference to Baptism. The triune God washed our sins away in Baptism and, because of Baptism, He continues to wash our sins away through the mouth of the pastor.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise hear our prayer, O Lord.



Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef. It begins with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes) in the second, third, and fourth staves. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The score ends with a double bar line and a key signature change to one flat (Bb).



you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY²

Let us pray... Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Please be seated

² By singing or saying "Amen" we are taking ownership of this prayer. The word "Amen" means, "Yes, God will for sure answer this prayer!" It is an expression of faith and confidence in God.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 42

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight.
I am placing my Spirit on him.
He will announce a just verdict for the nations.

²He will not cry out.
He will not raise his voice.
He will not make his voice heard in the street.

³A bent reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out.
He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict.

⁴He will not burn out, and he will not be broken,
until he establishes justice on the earth.
The coastlands will wait for his law.

⁵This is what the true God says,
the Lord who creates the heavens and stretches them out,
who spreads out the earth
and everything that it produces,
who gives breath to the people on it
and life to those who walk on it.

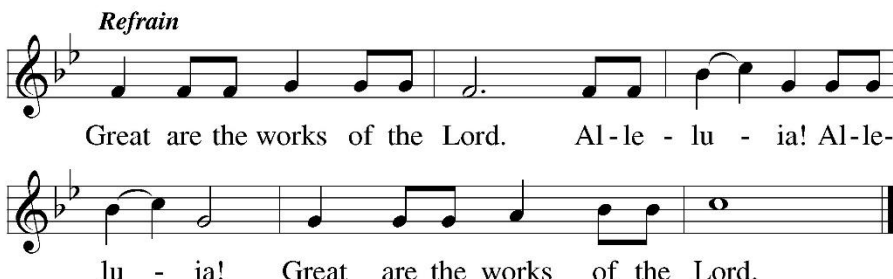
⁶I am the Lord.
I have called you in righteousness.
I will hold on to your hand,
and I will guard you.
I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people,
to be a light for the nations,
⁷to open the eyes of the blind,
to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon,
and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.


PSALM 45

Refrain



Great are the works of the Lord. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-
lu - ia! Great are the works of the Lord.

Psalm tone



*

My heart is stirred by a noble theme*
as I recite my verses for the King.

You are the most excellent of men,*
and your lips have been anointeded with grace.

Gird your sword upon your side, O Mighty One;*
clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.

In your majesty ride forth victoriosly;*
let your right hand display awesome deeds.

Refrain

Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;*
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

You love righteousness and hate wickedness;*
therefore God has anointed you with the oil of joy.

I will perpetuate your memory through all generations;*
therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.

**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.**

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer. © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer (admin. Northwestern Publishing House). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SECOND LESSON

Acts 10

³⁴Then Peter began to speak: “Now I really am beginning to understand that God does not show favoritism, ³⁵but in every nation, anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶He sent his word to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

³⁷“You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached. ³⁸God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the Devil, because God was with him.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

VERSE OF THE DAY

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 3

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John at the Jordan. ¹⁴But John tried to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?"

¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, because it is proper for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John let him. ¹⁶After Jesus was baptized, he immediately went up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens were opened for him! He saw the Spirit of God, descending like a dove and landing on him, ¹⁷and a voice out of the heavens said, "This is my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with him."

The Gospel of our Lord.



Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

To Jordan's River Came Our Lord | CW 377

SERMON

Matthew 3:13-17

Baptism Opens Heaven to Us

Please stand when presider indicates

ATHANASIAN CREED

Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true Christian faith. Whoever does not keep this faith pure in all points will certainly perish forever.

Now this is the true Christian faith:

We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being.

**For each person—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—is distinct,
but the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one,
equal in glory and coeternal in majesty.**

**What the Father is, so is the Son, and so is the Holy Spirit.
The Father is uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;
the Father is infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;
the Father is eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal;
yet they are not three who are eternal, but there is one who is eternal,
just as they are not three who are uncreated, nor three who are infinite,
but there is one who is uncreated and one who is infinite.**

**In the same way the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, the Holy Spirit is almighty;
yet they are not three who are almighty, but there is one who is almighty.**

**So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;
yet they are not three Gods, but one God.
So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;
yet they are not three Lords, but one Lord.**

**For just as Christian truth compels us to confess each person individually to be God and Lord,
so the true Christian faith forbids us to speak of three Gods or three Lords.**

**The Father is neither made nor created nor begotten of anyone.
The Son is neither made nor created, but is begotten of the Father alone.
The Holy Spirit is neither made nor created nor begotten,
but proceeds from the Father and the Son.
So there is one Father, not three Fathers;
one Son, not three Sons;
one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.**

**And within this Trinity none comes before or after; none is greater or inferior,
but all three persons are coequal and coeternal,
so that in every way, as stated before, all three persons are to be worshiped as one God and one God worshiped as three persons.**

Whoever wishes to be saved must have this conviction of the Trinity.

Please be seated

MUSICAL OFFERING

A musical offering follows—for meditating on the sermon and signing Connection Cards.

Offering plates are found by the doors of the worship space.

A special offering can be made by using this QR code.

“But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” (2Co 8:7)



Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Heavenly Father, we thank you for revealing yourself at the baptism of Jesus. There you declared the One born at Bethlehem and adored by the magi to be your beloved Son in whom you are well-pleased. Enable us all to look to him - and to nowhere else - for our hope and salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As you anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit, so pour out that same Spirit on us. Fill us with faith and grace. Remove from our hearts all fear and doubt. Overcome our laziness and indecision and drive the ugliness of sin out of our lives. Open our eyes to the glorious truth that as your baptized children we are your royal priests even as we go about our daily routines. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Grant your strength and blessing to all pastors, teachers and missionaries. May they proclaim your Word with fervor and diligence and so bring light to those who sit in darkness. Prompt our young people to aspire to study for the public ministry. Make us willing from our hearts to offer up our young people to you for this purpose. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Intercessory prayers

Triune God, we worship you - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and because you have commanded us to pray and promised that you would hear us, we also join in praying...

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.³



C: And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

³ Why are we greeting each other like this? Because something big is about to happen.

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ☩ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



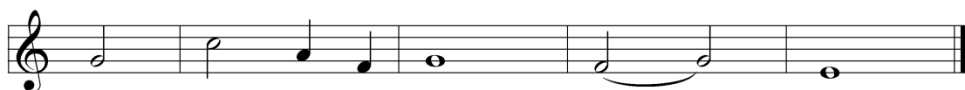
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



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



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

Please respect our practice of “Close Communion.” For explanation, please see the inside cover of this worship folder. Thank you.

As the pastor dismisses each group with the words “Go in peace,” it is appropriate to bow slightly before walking away. Why? Because something big just happened! Jesus has visited us from heaven.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It | CW 679

At the Name of Jesus | CW 547

Please stand when the presider indicates

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in the true faith into life everlasting. Your sins are forgiven. The peace of God is with you.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING

THANK THE LORD⁴



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev'-ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

⁴ Scripture speaks of the Sacrament as "the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks" (1Co 10:16).

BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO? (AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?)

Stay between services today for a presentation on the “Guiding Principles of Lutheran Worship” here in the worship space. We will begin about 9:20 a.m.

WANT TO LISTEN TO A PODCAST ABOUT BAPTISM?

Check out Pastor Werre’s “Peace Catechism Review” on Spotify or on the iHeart app on your phone. There are five episodes on baptism dating from November 4 to December 10, 2025.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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