



**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street • Valparaiso,
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clcvalpo.org • office@clcvalpo.org



January 7, 2024

We Welcome You to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure* of faith, grace, and love.

** The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

ABOUT WORSHIP

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

RESTROOMS

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Il est Né

Hudson

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

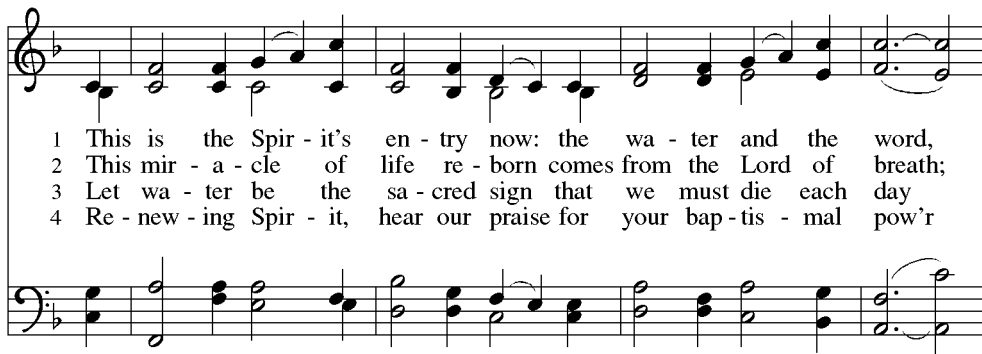
Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

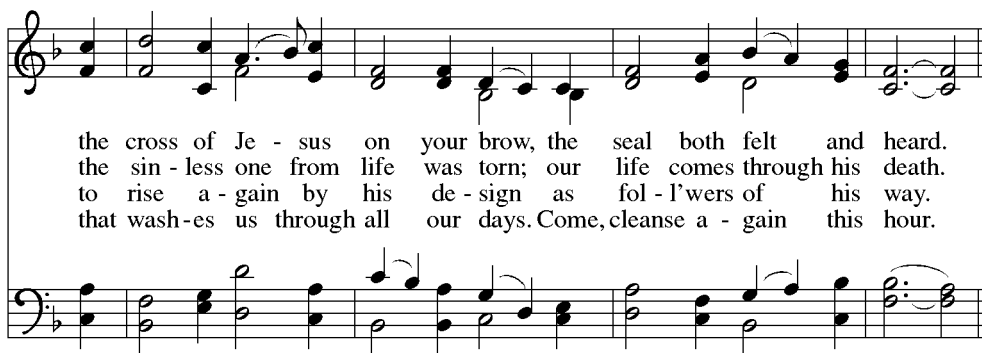
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved.
Amen.



1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
 2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
 3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
 4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
 the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
 to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.
 that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

Text: Thomas E. Herbranson, b. 1933
 Music: North American traditional; arr. hymnal version
 Text © Thomas E. Herbranson, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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.

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,



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

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 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.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 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.

Final refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

God of the tearing heaven,
whose holiness is unveiled
by one who is submerged
in all the pain and sin of earth:
give us faith to follow him
who goes to the heart of darkness
bearing only the Spirit
of gentle, insistent peace;
through Jesus Christ, the promised one.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR OLIVER GEORGE CHRONIS (10:30 a.m.)

Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present the candidate:

We present Oliver George for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parents:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Oliver baptized into Christ?

We do.

The presiding minister continues:

As you bring Oliver to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with him among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him in faith and prayer,
so that he may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Oliver grow in the Christian faith and life?

We do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to continue to accompany Oliver in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

We do.

The assembly stands.

People of God, will you promise to support Oliver and pray for him in his new life in Christ? Will you grow with him, learn with him, serve with him, and together give praise to God?

We will.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

The assembly is seated. The presiding minister baptizes the candidate.

Oliver George, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain Oliver with the gift of your Holy Spirit:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.
Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.
Oliver George, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with
the cross of Christ forever.
Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized.
Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children are invited for a time together.

READING: Genesis 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

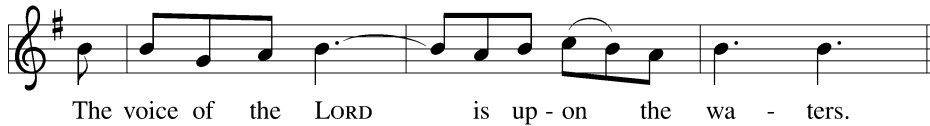
¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

The congregation is invited to sing the psalm refrain when indicated (R). Verses will be chanted alternately by the leader and the people.

Refrain



Psalm Tone



- ¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo-ry and strength.
- ²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. R**
- ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- ⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. R**
- ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
- ¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. R

READING: Acts 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.



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



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

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather

belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #455 *Crashing Waters at Creation*

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



- 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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APOSTLES' CREED (8:00 only)

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.

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

PRAYERS

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders, especially our new council members Angela, Kate, Karen, Lis, and Josh, to nurture a community of mercy and grace. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. Grant peace and justice to the people of Iran, Iraq, and Syria, protect refugees and empower all who work for the common good. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We invite those worshipping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with
1) First Contact Porter County [facebook.com/firstcontactportercounty](https://www.facebook.com/firstcontactportercounty) and
2) the Christ Lutheran Mike Steiner Benevolence Fund.

If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code or browse to our secure on-line portal at clcvalpo.org/give or use our CLC app (download at clcvalpo.org/app).



OFFERTORY

Noel

D'Aquin

OFFERTORY PRAYER

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is the one.")



☒ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na. Ho - san - na. 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.

TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:

**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

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.

Come and see.

Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

The assembly is seated.

*The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen (receive the bread)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen (receive the cup)

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is lighter-colored and **GRAPE JUICE** is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. **USED GLASSES** are placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE**, please indicate to the server that you require this.

LAMB OF GOD

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 HYMNS: ACS #958

To Christ Belong, in Christ Behold



1 To Christ be - long, in Christ be - hold God's
 2 The brood - ing Spir - it moves un - seen as
 3 Re - joic - ing in God's prom - ise strong, our



won - ders still un - fold: the bur - ied
 liv - ing wa - ters stream to quench all
 trea - sure and our song, in faith we



grain springs forth a - gain with fruit one hun - dred - fold.
 thirst and bring to birth a new com - mu - ni - ty.
 cling, and glad - ly sing: to Christ we now be - long.



Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, with
 The bind - ing shroud is here re - leased, the
 In Christ a - bide, in Christ be - hold the



Christ from death we rise, drawn through the
 veil of sin and grief, and in their
 world be - loved and whole. In love re -



night by dawn - ing light in - to a - bun - dant
 place a wreath of grace and robes of joy and
 main, by love pro - claim God's won - ders still un -



life, in - to a - bun - dant life.
 peace, and robes of joy and peace.
 told, God's won - ders still un - told.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952
 Music: WONDERS, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
 Text © 2011 Susan R. Briehl, admin. Augsburg Fortress
 Music © 2011 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress

ELW #445 *Wash, O God, Our Sons & Daughters*



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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When all have returned to their places, the assembly stands.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Giver of every gift,

Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.

Raise us to life by your power

for the benefit of all and to your glory,

now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

INVITATIONS

Brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

BLESSING

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #313 *O Lord, Now Let Your Servant*



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
till rap-tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis
Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune
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DISMISSAL

Children: Go in peace. God loves you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Allegro maestoso

Mendelssohn

Worship Leaders

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte	Sam Venstrom	Audrey Crill
Lector	Reagan Jackson	Doc Knauff
Prayer Assistant	Betty Luckett	Becky Fry
Communion Assistants	Betty Luckett Bob Luckett	Erin Crill Cindy McGuire
Ushers	Irene Adams Luke Venstrom	
Sound/Light	Lance Nolting	Jeff Peiffer
Video/Livestream	-----	Tony Reinhold
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Worship Participant	Karen Hernes, cantor	
Communion Baker	Lois Felten	

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Iran, Iraq, Syria**.

We are **thankful** for:

- the resilience of the people who remain in their homelands even when they face constant threats and ongoing violence
- the relief and assistance that has been provided to so many
- those who have made a new home for refugees fleeing from these countries
- those who have worked continually for peace, justice and reconciliation

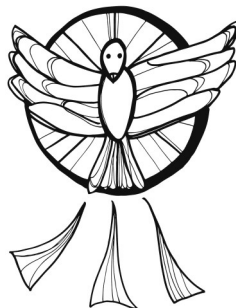
We **pray** for:

- an end to the violence racking these battlefields of global powers
- political leaders emerging in these countries who will pursue peace, the common good, and human rights of all groups
- the international community to pursue policies that will result in acceptable, just peace for all involved
- greater openness to welcoming those displaced or fleeing from these lands, desperately seeking safety and wellbeing

Stewardship Snippet

Paul said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' – **Acts 19:2**

As we celebrate the baptism of Jesus and recall our own initiation into God's family, we can be confident that God works within us, giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit, and equipping us to be faithful disciples who are well in body, mind, and spirit.



A Life-changing New Chapter

Jesus does not *become* the Son of God at the moment of his baptism. Indeed, his relationship to God the Father is eternal—from forever in the past, through the incarnation, and forever into the future. But Jesus’ baptism is a watershed moment (pardon the pun) representing the beginning of his public ministry and revelation as both fully human and fully divine.

At the beginning of the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is an unknown person from Nazareth, a remote town about which scripture says little (but for Nathanael’s insinuation of its bad reputation at John 1:46). Jesus would have seemed much like the other people who came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. Yet this is the Son of God who has chosen to join all the people on this earth, to live like we live, to experience what we experience. So Jesus gathers with the multitude that comes for this ritual of a new beginning with and through God. And a new life does open in front of Jesus. The unexpected suddenly erupts for this ordinary-seeming man: in this human among humans a new chapter is initiated in God’s story for the world—a new chapter that will come to involve a new kind of baptism.

This new baptism forms the church—both initially and yet today. No longer the temporary washing in water that John performed, Christian baptism is a definitive act of God, through water and the Holy Spirit, in which we are “marked with the cross of Christ forever” (*ELW*, p. 231) and raised to “newness of life” (Romans 6:4). As we follow Mark and the other evangelists’ accounts of Jesus’ ministry, even to death and beyond, we will learn what it means to be marked with Christ’s cross. But foundational to this—and the gift that makes it possible for us—is that the Creator’s words to Jesus resonate in our own baptism: “You are my child, my beloved; with you I am well pleased.” It’s a life-changing new chapter for us too.

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