

The Baptism of our Lord

January 12, 2025

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG: “United in Christ”

Verse 1

People of the Lord come now and sing
Every nation and tongue to Christ our King
With empty hands His gifts receive

Verse 2

Whether young or old you're a child of God
Whether rich or poor no matter what you got
He gathers all at the foot of the cross

Chorus

His body broken makes this body whole
His resurrection it assures us all
No darkness nor doubting nor pain in this life
Could keep us from being united in Christ

Verse 3

Sinners and saints you have a place
With the Spirit's gifts proclaim His grace
There's nothing too small
To be used by the Living God

Bridge

We are the body Christ is the head
Sealed with the promise through blood He shed
We are the body Christ is the head
His grace the heartbeat our confidence
We are the body Christ is the head
Sealed with the promise through blood He shed
We are the body Christ is the head
His grace the heartbeat our confidence
Our confidence

Tag

No darkness nor doubting nor pain in this life
Could keep us from being united in Christ

CALL TO WORSHIP:

- L:** When we were baptized into God's name, we were brought into fellowship with the Holy, Triune God Himself. When we gather together in His house, in His name, we are reminded that there is nowhere on earth we belong more than in His presence, as His baptized children, praising His name, the name put upon us in water and word
- P:** **The name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

- L:** The Word of God teaches us that we are conceived and born sinful and would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death and everlasting condemnation.
- P:** **Almighty God, while I am Your child, I am still by nature a child of Adam and the corruption of the fall has been borne witness to through my own sinful thoughts, words and deeds of which I am ashamed and because of which I deserve everlasting condemnation; but You are the Father of all grace and mercy and You sent Your Son to atone for my sin. For His sake forgive me, restore me, lead me and guide me as Your own beloved child. Amen.**
- L:** In the goodness of God, Jesus Christ was sent to live, die and rise for you. In the stead and by the command of God, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: "His Mercy is More"

Verse 1

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Verse 2

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Verse 3

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Chorus

Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn; Our sins they are many His mercy is more

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 43:1-7*

The Lord created Jacob and formed Israel. Now, this is what the Lord says:

Do not be afraid, because I have reclaimed you.
I have called you by name; you are mine.
When you go through the sea, I am with you.
When you go through rivers, they will not sweep you away.
When you walk through fire, you will not be burned,
and the flames will not harm you.
I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
Egypt is the ransom I exchanged for you.
Sudan and Seba are the price I paid for you.
Since you are precious to me, you are honored and I love you.
I will exchange others for you.
Nations will be the price I pay for your life.

Do not be afraid, because I am with you.
I will bring your descendants from the east
and gather you from the west.
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not keep them."
Bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the ends of the earth.
Bring everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.-GW®

BAPTISMAL LITANY (*Romans 6*)

- L**: You know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death.
- P**: **We were buried with Jesus by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.**
- L**: For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: "Shall We Gather at the River"
~David von Kampen

Bethany Choir

HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 3:15-22*

People's hopes were rising as they all wondered whether John was the Messiah. John replied to all of them, "I baptize you with water. But the one who is more powerful than I is

coming. I am not worthy to untie His sandal straps. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing shovel is in His hand to clean up His threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into His barn, but He will burn the husks in a fire that can never be put out.”

With many other encouraging words, he told the Good News to the people.

John spoke out against the ruler Herod because Herod had married his own sister-in-law, Herodias. He also spoke out against Herod for all the evil things he had done. So Herod added one more evil to all the others; he locked John in prison.

When all the people were baptized, Jesus, too, was baptized. While He was praying, heaven opened, and the Holy Spirit came down to Him in the form of a dove. A voice from heaven said, “You are my Son, whom I love. I am pleased with You.”

SERMON SONG: “Jesus Paid it All”

Verse 1

And I hear the Savior say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray
Find in Me thine all in all

Chorus 1

'Cause Jesus paid it all—All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow

Interlude 1

It's washed away; All my sin and all my shame

Verse 2

Lord now indeed I find
Thy pow'r and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone

Verse 3

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat

Interlude 2

Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow (repeat)

Chorus 2

Oh praise the One Who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead

MESSAGE: “Adopted” *Isaiah 43:1-7*

SONG OF THE DAY: “He Will Hold Me Fast”

Verse 1

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

Chorus

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Verse 2

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

Verse 3

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last

OFFERING: *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Maraley at mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

CONSECRATION OF GIFTS:

L: As they offered gifts most rare at Thy cradle, rude and bare,

P: **So may we with holy joy,**

L: Pure and free from sin's alloy,

P: **All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM AND HOLY COMMUNION:

L: In baptism, we were united to the suffering and death of Jesus Christ and cleansed of sin by His blood. In baptism, we were renewed and called to a life of daily repentance and faith which clings to our Savior. Today, we come to renew that faith once more. In baptism you, or your sponsor on your behalf, responded to the grace of God by renouncing the devil and all his works and all his ways. So, I ask you anew, do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

P: **Yes, I renounce them!**

L: In baptism you, or your sponsor on your behalf, responded to the call of God by proclaiming the Christian faith. So, I ask you anew, do you believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

P: **Yes, I believe that out of Fatherly, divine, goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me, God the Father has made me His own child.**

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

P: **Yes, I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior who redeemed me, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.**

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

P: **Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit who has called me to faith by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts and leads me to thank and praise, serve and obey the Lord; living under Him in His kingdom, serving Him with joy and remaining in His Church as long as He grants me life.**

L: The Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, will strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting. Through baptism He has promised you both eternal joys and daily strength. As His baptized child he invites and calls you to remember your baptism continually, that you might daily drown the old you and rise anew to walk with Him in and through life.

✠ Holy Communion ✠

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.

To help you prepare for communion we invite you to take a few moments of quiet prayer. For aid there are prayers on the front page of the hymnal for both before and after the reception of communion. Or simply pray, *Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation You invite me to come to You, to eat and drink Your holy body and blood an You Yourself have promised to give in this sacrament of Your altar. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*For those communing, who so desire, the center cups in each tray are **alcohol free**. The wafers on the stand next to the pillar pulpit side (when kneeling for communion) or on the stand in front of the baptismal font (when processing for communion) are **gluten free**.*

In our 9:30 a.m. service we will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we will join the procession of saints and come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS: “Here I Am to Worship”

Verse 1

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Verse 2

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Bridge

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

“Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me”

Verse 1

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 2

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 3

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 4

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Ending

When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me
Yet not I but through Christ in me

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING:

L: Go to live always in the Light of Christ, being ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

P: Amen.

SENDING SONG: “Who You Say I Am”

Verse 1

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

Chorus 1

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

Verse 2

Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

Chorus 2

In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

Bridge

I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am; Oh, Yes I am who You say I am

POSTLUDE

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“United in Christ”

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“His Mercy is More”

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“Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me”

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“Who You Say I Am”

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SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 9:30...Emilee Torres
Lector 8:00...Greg Goebel
Liturgist...Karl Fink; Pastor Kevin Kritzer
Director of Music & Worship...Noah Freeman
Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley
Children’s Message...Isaiah Duport

Crucifer 9:30...Trevor Torres
Lector 9:30...Diana Orr
Preacher...Pastor Kyle Blake
Accompanist...Kevin Bowers
Keyboard...Pat Gagan
Sound...Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann

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If You’re a Visitor, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany’s fillable information form.



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