

**Baptism of the Lord
January 7, 2024**

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude *Silent Night*
 Bell Choir

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **Call to Worship** (*Responsively*) *Dennis Lesher*

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
**May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.**
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.
**May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.**

—Psalm 72:1-5, NRSV

 **Invocation** *Dennis Lesher*

O God, you spoke your Word
and revealed your good news in Jesus, the Christ.
Fill all creation with that Word again
so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations
and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples,
we may become one living body,
your incarnate presence on the earth. **Amen.**

 **Praise Song** *Blessed Be Your Name*

Verse 1
Blessed be Your Name in the land that is plentiful;
Where Your streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your Name.

Verse 2
Blessed be Your Name when I'm found in the desert place,
When I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your Name.

Pre-Chorus
Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise;
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say:

Chorus

Blessed be the Name of the Lord, blessed be Your Name.
Blessed be the Name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious Name.

Verse 3

Blessed be Your Name when the sun's shining down on me;
When the world's all as it should be, blessed be Your Name.

Verse 4

Blessed be Your Name on the rod marked with suffering:
Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your Name.

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

Bridge (2x)

You give and take away, You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say: Lord, blessed be Your Name.

Chorus (2x)

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Dennis Lesher

The light has come into the world,
and people loved darkness rather than light
because their deeds were evil.
Let us confess our sin to God.

—based on John 3:19, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Dennis Lesher

God of grace, you have given us Jesus,
the light of the world,
but we choose darkness
and cling to things that hide the brightness of your love.
Immersed in ourselves, we have not risen to new life.
Baptize us with your Spirit,
that, forgiven and renewed,
we may preach your Word to the nations
and tell of your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ,
our Lord and our light forever. **Amen.**

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Dennis Lesher

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.
Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God.

—John 1:9, 12, NIV

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

! Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men.*

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly;
the one who sows bountifully will also reap
bountifully. Responding to God's bountiful gifts to us
in Christ, we have opportunity to share out of our
abundance.

—based on 2 Corinthians 9:6, 8, NRSV

Offering

Offertory *Come Unto Jesus*

! Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

! Prayer of Dedication

Emmanuel, God with us,
the Magi followed the star to find you.
Amazed, they gave gifts.
We too are amazed by your presence among us,
by the gift that you are to us.
With joyful hearts, we bring you our gifts
of time, of money, of ourselves.
Use these and us to serve you and your world. **Amen.**

! Hymn 375

Jesus Calls Us

Proclaiming
God speaks to us through His Word

Scripture Reading

Luke 5:1-11

⁵ As the crowd was pressing in on Jesus to hear God's word, he was standing by Lake Gennesaret. ² He saw two boats at the edge of the lake; the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, which belonged to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the land. Then he sat down and was teaching the crowds from the boat.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch."

⁵ "Master," Simon replied, "we've worked hard all night long and caught nothing. But if you say so, I'll let down the nets."

⁶ When they did this, they caught a great number of fish, and their nets began to tear. ⁷ So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them; they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus's knees and said, "Go away from me, because I'm a sinful man, Lord!" ⁹ For he and all those with him were amazed at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, Zebedee's sons, who were Simon's partners.

"Don't be afraid," Jesus told Simon. "From now on you will be catching people." ¹¹ Then they brought the boats to land, left everything, and followed him.

Sermon

"The First Followers"
Rev. Tim Latham



Praise Song

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

*Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken
Jesus I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee
Destitute, despised, forsaken
Thou from hence my all shalt be
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought or hoped or known
Yet how rich is my condition,
God and heaven are still my own.*

*Let the world despise and leave me
They have left my savior too
Human hearts and looks deceive me,
Thou art not like them untrue
Oh while thou dost smile upon me,
God of wisdom, love and might
Foes may hate and friends disown me,
Show thy face and all is bright.*

*Man they trouble and distress me,
Twill but drive me to thy breast
Life with trials hard may press me,
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest
Oh 'tis not in grief to harm me,
While thy love is left to me
Oh 'twere not in joy to charm me,
Were that joy unmixed with thee.*

*Go then earthly fame and treasure,
Come disaster, scorn and pain
In thy service pain is pleasure,
With thy favor loss is gain
I have called thee Abba Father,
I have stayed my heart on thee
Storms may howl and clouds may gather,
All must work for good to me.*

*Soul then know thy full salvation
Rise o'er sin and fear and care
Joy to find in every station,
Something still to do or bear
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,
Think what Father's smiles are thine
Think that Jesus died to win thee,
Child of heaven, canst thou repine.*

*Haste thee on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith and winged by prayer
Heaven's eternal day's before thee,
God's own hand shall guide thee there
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days
Hope shall change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight and prayer to praise.*

Sacrament of Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

Invitation to the Table

Leader: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you
proclaim the Lord's death until He comes Again!

**People: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come
again!**

Responding
We respond to God's Word

! **Profession of Faith** (*Apostle's Creed*)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
And 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 buried;
The third day he rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

Prayers of the People

God has called us out of darkness
into the glorious light of the Son.
Let us therefore pray for those who do not yet know the light
and for all those in need of our prayers,
saying, "Lord, hear our prayer."
For the church and its ministry to the world,
and for all those who bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

[*Silence*]

For the nations of the world and their leaders,
for all those in authority [*especially . . .*],
and for an end to war and oppression,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

[*Silence*]

For those who have not heard the good news of salvation,
for those who have heard but have not believed,
and for those who have forsaken their faith,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

[*Silence*]

For those who are lonely and destitute,
for victims of injustice and discrimination,
for those who are unloved and forgotten,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

[*Silence*]

For those who are sick in body, mind, and spirit,
for those who are hungry and homeless,

for those who are dying or bereaved,
and for all those in need of our prayers [*especially . . .*],
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

[*Silence*]

For the saints who have gone before us in the faith
and are now at rest [*especially . . .*],
we give thanks to the Lord.

And for all the saints on earth
who surround us in a great fellowship of love,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving God, hear the prayers of your faithful people
and guide our thoughts and actions,
so that your will may be done and your name glorified,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Commissioning

God sends us out into the world as His witnesses



Hymn 234

Crown Him with Many Crowns



Benediction & Blessing



Postlude