

Stewardship 2026 Join the Journey

*"Trust in God from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.
Listen for God's voice in everything you do,
everywhere you go." Proverbs 3:4-6*



WELCOME TO WORSHIP First Sunday after Epiphany January 11, 2026 - Baptism of our Lord 9:15 AM Worship Express

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz

Lector: Mike Warwick

Acolytes: Hannah Peterson

Ushers: Jason & Darla Estervig

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "When Jesus Came to Jordan" set by Linker

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of Thanksgiving.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the beginning your Spirit moved over the Waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in

which you took delight.

P: Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. 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 water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

C: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

P: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Stand

GATHERING SONG: "Shall We Gather at the River" ELW #423

**Vs. 1: Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?**

**Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.**

**Vs. 2: On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. *Refrain...***

**Vs. 3: Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. *Refrain...***

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

LITANY

P: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

P: In the Word was life,

C: and the life was the light of all people.

P: The word became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

SONG OF PRAISE: "Love, Love, Love"

Vs. 1: Love, love, love! That's what it's all about!

**'Cause God loves us, we love each other,
mother, father, sister, brother.**

**Ev'rybody sing and shout,
'cause that's what it's all about!
It's about love, love, love!
It's about love, love, love!**

Vs. 2: Peace, peace, peace!

Vs. 3: Joy, joy, joy!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GOSPEL SONG: "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

**Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp, and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see;**

Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine.

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 3rd Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

Narrator: Jesus then appeared, arriving at the Jordan River from Galilee. He wanted John to baptize him. John objected, “I’m the one who needs to be baptized, not *you*!” ¹⁵ But Jesus insisted. “Do it. God’s work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this baptism.” So John did it.¹⁶⁻¹⁷ The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God’s Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: “This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

CHILDREN’S WORD/ WORD

Stand

SONG OF THE WORD: “Baptized in Water” ELW #456

**Vs. 1: Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God’s praise we sing.**

**Vs. 2: Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king:
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God’s praise we sing.**

**Vs. 3: Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king:
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord?

C: **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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: **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

P: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence

P: Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

P: Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERING SONG: "This Little Light of Mine"

Vs. 1: This little light of mine, I'm goin' a let it shine. (3 times)
Let it shine, let it shine let it shine.

Vs. 2: Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin' let it shine. (3 times)
Let it shine, let it shine let it shine.

Vs. 3: Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin' let it shine. (3 times)
Let it shine, let it shine let it shine.

THE 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: And peace to God's people on earth!

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Baptized and Set Free" Skogen-Soldner/Miller