

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 11th, 2026



MARTIN LUTHER
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
St. Louis, MO
Pastor Seth Georgson
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SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Hymn ----- **To Jordan's River Came Our Lord**

CW 89

1. To Jordan's river came our Lord,
The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,
The God from God, the Light from Light,
The Lord of glory, pow'r, and might.
2. The Savior came to be baptized—The Son of God in flesh disguised—
To stand beneath the Father's will And all his promises fulfill.
3. As Jesus in the Jordan stood And John baptized the Lamb of God,
The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove, Descended on him from above.
4. Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound
Came God's own voice with words profound:
"This is my Son," was his decree, "The one I love, who pleases me."
5. The Father's word, the Spirit's flight Anointed Christ in glorious sight
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall To save the world and free us all.
6. Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute! This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan's stream, Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

Stand.

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

M: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when he said: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

C: **Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

M: As baptized children of God we confess our sins:

C: **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.**

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

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

Be seated.

Hymn ----- God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

CWS 737

1. *(Choir)* God's own child, I gladly say it:
I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it,
Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free,
Lasting to eternity!
2. *(Choir)* Sin, disturb my soul no longer:
I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger:
Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me
Since my baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood,
Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?
3. *(Men)* Satan, hear this proclamation:
I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation;
I am not so soon enticed.
(All) Now that to the font I've traveled,
All your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny,
God, my Lord, unites with me!
4. *(Choir)* Death, you cannot end my gladness:
I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness
To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine
To make life immortal mine.
5. *(All)* There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring; Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!

Prayer of the Day

M: 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.



THE WORD

First Lesson ----- **Isaiah 42:1-7**

Here 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.

He will not cry out.
He will not raise his voice.
He will not make his voice heard in the street.
A bent reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out.
He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict.
He will not burn out, and he will not be broken
until he establishes justice on the earth.
The coastlands will wait for his law.

This 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.
I 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,
to 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.

Psalm of the Day ----- **Psalm 45**

CW p.83

Refrain

Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Great are the works of the Lord.

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 anointed with grace.

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

In your majesty ride forth victoriously;
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

Second Lesson ----- 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

For example, consider your call, brothers. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view, not many were powerful, and not many were born with high status. But God chose the foolish things of the world to put to shame those who are wise. God chose the weak things of the world to put to shame the things that are strong, and God chose the lowly things of the world and

the despised things, and the things that are not, to do away with the things that are, so that no one may boast before God. But because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us the wisdom from God, namely, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. God did this so that, just as it is written, “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

Verse of the Day

Mark 1:11

M: Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you. Alleluia.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Stand.

Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

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

But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, because it is proper for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John let him. After 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, and a voice out of the heavens said, “This is my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with him.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day ----- To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord

CW 88

1. *(Choir)* To Jordan came the Christ, our Lord, To do his Father's pleasure;
Baptized by John, the Father's Word Was given us to treasure.
This heav'nly washing now shall be A cleansing from transgression
And by his blood and agony Release from death's oppression.
A new life now awaits us.
2. These truths on Jordan's banks were shown
By mighty word and wonder.
The Father's voice from heav'n came down Which we do well to ponder:
"This man is my beloved Son, In whom my heart has pleasure.
Him you must hear, and him alone, And trust in fullest measure
The word that he has spoken."
3. Oh, hear and mark the message well, For God himself has spoken.
Let faith, not doubt, among us dwell, And so receive this token.
Our Lord here with his Word endows Pure water freely flowing.
God's Holy Spirit here avows Our kinship while bestowing
The baptism of his blessing.
4. All that the mortal eye beholds Is water as we pour it.
Before the eye of faith unfolds The pow'r of Jesus' merit.
For here it sees his precious blood To all our ills bring healing,
The wonders of that crimson flood The love of God revealing,
Assuring his own pardon.
5. To his disciples spoke the Lord, "Go out to ev'ry nation
And bring to them the living Word And this my invitation:
Let ev'ryone abandon sin And come in true contrition
To be baptized and thereby win Full pardon and remission
And heav'nly bliss inherit."

----- Sermon ----- Matthew 3:13-17

By Baptism the Way Is Open

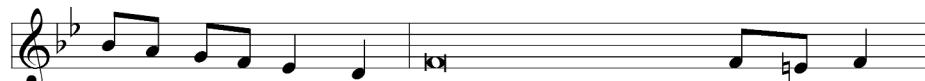
Stand.

We Praise You, O God

Te Deum



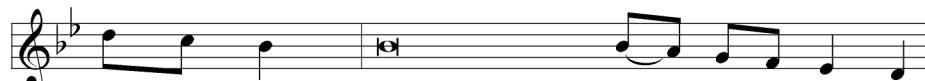
C: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,



Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,



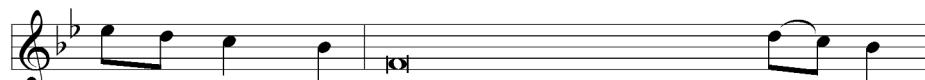
cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of



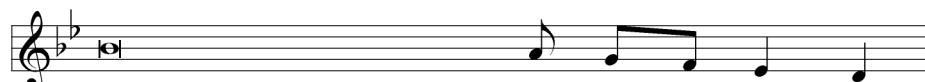
heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of



prop-h-ets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.



Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



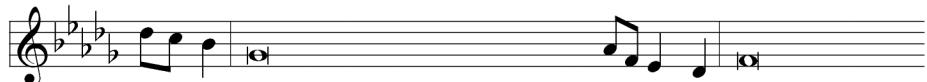
Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and on - ly Son,



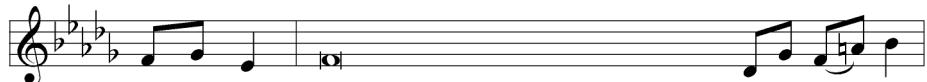
and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of



glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther. When you became man to



set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a vir-gin. You overcame the



sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be-liev - ers.



You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Fa - ther.



We believe that you will come to be our judge.



Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple, bought with the price of



your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

Be seated.

Offering

Stand.

*Online giving option:
mluther.org/offering*

*Offerings support the spread
of the Gospel here and around the world.*



Prayer of the Church

The minister offers the petitions and the congregation joins with "hear our prayer."

M: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

M: Heavenly Father, You have revealed Your Son to us in the wondrous Epiphany in the Jordan. So also You have revealed Your name and blessing to us in Holy Baptism, declaring us Your beloved heirs. Grant that we may daily die to sin and rise to newness of life, living with joy as Your baptized children. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Gracious God, prosper Your Church. Bless Mark Schroeder, our Synod president; Dennis Klatt, our district president; our pastor; all church workers; and those preparing for vocations in Your service. Make them wise unto salvation and faithful in all the duties and responsibilities assigned to them for our benefit. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: O Lord, preserve the family, especially all Christian homes. Turn husband and wife toward one another in love, equip fathers and mothers for their holy duty as teachers of the faith, and preserve all children in the saving faith and certain promises of their Baptism unto life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Lord God, there are no authorities except those You ordain. Give our leaders hearts like Christ, their Lord, who tends the smoldering wick and the bruised reed and rules always in righteousness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Merciful God, Your Son reigns in gentleness and rules for the sake of the downcast. Bind up those who are troubled and broken, *[especially _____,]* and open their eyes to His grace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: O God, in Holy Baptism You have opened the heavens to Your children. Grant that all those baptized into Your Son would worthily receive the heavenly feast of His body and blood for their forgiveness, life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Almighty God, You have brought eternal life to us through the death of Your Son. Grant that we who have come through Baptism and have died to this world would ever more and more live in the resurrected life of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, You manifested Yourself with the Holy Spirit in the fullness of grace at the Baptism of Your dear Son. With Your voice, You directed us to the One who has borne our sins, that we may receive grace and forgiveness. Keep us, we implore You, in the true faith. Since we have been baptized in accordance with Your command and the example of Your Son, strengthen our faith by Your Holy Spirit and lead us to everlasting life and salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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

M: 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 *Sanctus*

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

M: 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.”

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

A musical staff in common time with a treble clef. It consists of a single measure containing four quarter notes, followed by a vertical bar line and a double bar line.

C: A - men.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

A musical staff in common time with a treble clef. It consists of a single measure containing four quarter notes, followed by a vertical bar line and a double bar line.

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

A musical staff in common time with a treble clef. It consists of a single measure containing four quarter notes, followed by a vertical bar line and a double bar line.

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

A musical staff in common time with a treble clef. It consists of a single measure containing four quarter notes, followed by a vertical bar line and a double bar line.

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

A musical staff in common time with a treble clef. It consists of a single measure containing four quarter notes, followed by a vertical bar line and a double bar line.

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

A musical staff in common time with a treble clef. It consists of a single measure containing four quarter notes, followed by a vertical bar line and a double bar line.

world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.

During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:

Hymn ----- All Christians Who Have Been Baptized
CWS 736

1. All Christians who have been baptized,
Who know the God of heaven,
And in whose daily life is prized
The name of Christ once given:
Consider now what God has done,
The gifts he gives to ev'ryone
Baptized into Christ Jesus!

2. You were before your day of birth,
Indeed, from your conception,
Condemned and lost with all the earth,
None good, without exception.
For like your parents' flesh and blood,
Turned inward from the highest good,
You constantly denied him.

3. But all of that was washed away-
Immersed and drowned forever.
The water of your baptism day
Restored again whatever
Old Adam and his sin destroyed
And all our sinful selves employed
According to our nature.

4. In Baptism we now put on Christ-
Our shame is fully covered
With all that he once sacrificed
And freely for us suffered.
For here the flood of his own blood
Now makes us holy, right, and good
Before our heav'nly Father.
5. O Christian, firmly hold this gift
And give God thanks forever!
It gives the power to uplift
In all that you endeavor.
When nothing else revives your soul,
Your baptism stands and makes you whole
And then in death completes you.
6. So use it well! You are made new-
In Christ a new creation!
As faithful Christians live and do
Within your own vocation,
Until that day when you possess
His glorious robe of righteousness
Bestowed on you forever!

Hymn ----- Christ, Your Footprints Through the Desert

CWS 709

1. Christ, your footprints through the desert
Led to Jordan's flowing stream.
There you heard the herald crying
Israel's old prophetic dream:
"He is coming! He is coming!
He will cleanse the earth with flame!
Sinners, plunge beneath the waters!
Wash away your guilt and shame!"
2. Christ, you heard the stirring summons
As by Jordan's bank you stood;
Bathed, though sinless, with your people
In the river's cleansing flood.
High above, the heavens opened;
Came the Spirit as a dove;
Spoke a voice beyond all hearing:
"See my Son, the one I love!"
3. Son of God, the road from Jordan
Led at last to Calv'ry's hill.
There upon the cross forsaken,
You fulfilled the Father's will.
Lamb of God, we see you dying,
Sinless, yet for sinners slain.
But where death rose up to triumph,
You began your glorious reign!
4. God, in Baptism you have made us
One with Christ, our risen Lord;
Freed us, claimed us, cleansed, forgiven

Through the water and the Word.
Help us hear your urgent summons,
Calling us to serve you now.
Send us forth, your sons and daughters,
With the cross upon our brow.

THANKSGIVING

Stand.

Thank the Lord



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



Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly 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!

M: 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.



Blessing

M: 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.



Be seated.

Hymn ----- Jesus, Once With Sinners Numbered

CWS 710

1. Jesus, once with sinners numbered,
Had no blemish of his own;
In the waters of the Jordan
His true worth and work were shown:
Heaven opened and the Spirit
There descended like a dove,
As the Father's voice resounded,
“Hear my Son, the One I love.”

2. John confessed him as the Savior-
“Look, the sinless Lamb of God!”
Yet he dared not loose the sandals
Of the one God’s love had shod.
Oh, how fair the feet of Jesus,
Bringing news of peace to us,
Christ, the herald of salvation,
Preaching mercy from the cross:

3. This the baptism that our Savior
Greatly longed to undergo;
This the crimson cleansing needed
So the world God’s love might know;
This the mission of Messiah
As he stepped from Jordan’s stream,
He, the chosen and anointed
Son of God, sent to redeem.

4. Jesus, once with sinners numbered,
Full obedience was your path;
You, by death, have consecrated
Water in this saving bath:
Dying to the sin of Adam,
Rising to a life of grace.
We are counted with the righteous,
Over us the cross you trace.

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