

Sunday, January 15, 2023
Baptism of Our Lord



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ www.blcfairport.org
The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

Sunday, January 15, 2023 ~ *Baptism of Our Lord*

Prelude

Christ Our Lord to Jordan Came

Marcel Dupré

Announcements

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.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,

we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Thus says our God: “The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.” God’s mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

Amen.

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| GATHERING HYMN | Crashing Waters at Creation | ELW 455 |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---------|

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

You Are My Hiding Place

Michael Ledner

The Folk Group

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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 Christ’s siblings, 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.

HEARING GOD’S WORD

DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP FOR KIDS

All kids ages 3 through elementary are welcome to a special time of hearing the Word, conversation and activity! Parents can remain in the sanctuary while the kids gather in the room across the hall from the side entrance to the sanctuary. Kids will return during the offering so they can participate in Communion.

READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold,

my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my spirit upon him;

he will bring forth justice to the nations.

²He will not cry or lift up his voice,

or make it heard in the street;

³a bruised reed he will not break,

and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;

he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed

until he has established justice in the earth;

and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵Thus says God, the Lord,

who created the heavens and stretched them out,

who spread out the earth and what comes from it,

who gives breath to the people upon it

and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,

I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,

a light to the nations,

⁷to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,

from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸I am the Lord, that is my name;

my glory I give to no other,

nor my praise to idols.

⁹See, the former things have come to pass,

and new things I now declare;

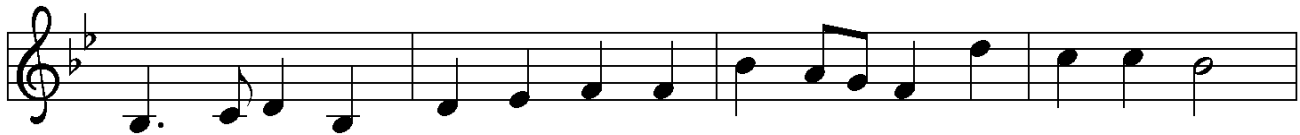
before they spring forth,

I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Living Waters

Words and Music by Keith Getty,
Kristyn Getty and Ed Cash



1. Are you thir- sty? Are you emp- ty? Come and drink these liv- ing
2. Christ is call- ing, find re- frsh- ing At the cross of liv- ing
3. Spir- it mov- ing, mer- cy wash- ing; Heal- ing in these liv- ing
4. Are you thir- sty? Are you emp- ty? Come and drink these liv- ing



wa- ters. Tired and brok- en, peace un- spo- ken,
wa- ters. Lay your life down, the old gone,
wa- ters. Lead your child- ren to the shore- line,
wa- ters. Love, for- give- ness, vast and bound- less,



Rest be- side these liv- ing wa- ters. 1. 2. 3. 4.
Rise up in these liv- ing wa- ters. There's a
Life is in these liv- ing wa- ters.
Christ, He is our liv- ing wa- ters.



riv- er that flows with mer- cy and love, Bring- ing



joy to the ci- ty of our God; There our hope is se- cure, do not



fear an- y- more, Praise the Lord of liv- ing wa- ters. last time to TAG



wa- ters. TAG There our hope is se- cure, do not



fear an- y- more, Praise the Lord of liv- ing wa- ters.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our prayers are always offered on behalf of the whole community.

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

#1 Put a new song in the mouth of your church. Inspire the baptized to tell of your faithfulness, sharing the good news of your salvation throughout the earth. Bless the witness of missionaries. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#2 The waters of baptism call us into life in the Spirit. Preserve the world's waters: protect them from pollution, support plants and animals who depend on them, and bring rain in places of drought. Guide us in protecting local waterways especially Lake Ontario, the Finger Lakes and the Genesee River, and in responding to devastating floods. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#3 In Jesus you are the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Show your mercy to all nations. Direct leaders to do your will; fill governing bodies with righteousness; equip judges with discernment and compassion. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We follow you in sharing love and care in our world. We pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: CarolynAnn, JoAnne, Lisa & Tony, Bill & Joanna (Abby & Ben), and Billy. Be with our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe as they follow where you lead. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Seek out those who are struggling in body, mind or spirit. Provide for those in any need.

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- The safe delivery and birth of Caden Lukas P., the first grandchild of Terri and Jeff P., on 12/30

We pray for those who are grieving, especially the family and friends of:

- Jeanine K., sister of Susie D., who died on 12/19
- Diane W., mother of Laurie T., who died on 1/5

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Taylor, niece of Kathy M., who has been diagnosed with cancer
- George and Nancy F., both being treated for Covid-19 at home
- Marcy A., who is recovering after a recent hospitalization
- Tim Montalbano, husband of Linda Montalbano, who is recovering after a fall
- Those who are caregivers for loved ones
- Those who are ill from Coronavirus and all who care for them

Hear also these concerns we raise in our hearts or on our voice.

Silence for individual prayer.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

SHARING GOD'S MEAL

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace in a way that cares for friend and neighbor.

If you worship virtually, share the peace through the comments section or text.

OFFERING

Information about supporting Bethlehem's ministry with your offerings is available in the Welcome insert in your pew rack or by visiting blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry.

OFFERING OF MUSIC

The Prayer of Saint Francis

arr. René Clausen

The Chancel Choir

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|---------|
| OFFERTORY HYMN | Lord of Light | ELW 688 |
|----------------|---------------|---------|

Lord of light, your name outshining
All the stars and suns of space,
Use our talents in your kingdom
As the servants of your grace;
Use us to fulfill your purpose
In the gift of Christ your Son.
Father, as in highest heaven,
So on earth your will be done.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Friends, we come to the table
Where God intends us to be nourished.
So come, you who hunger and thirst
For a deeper faith, a better life, a fairer world.
Jesus Christ, who is present at our tables,
Now invites us to be guests at his.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Now we do as Jesus did.

We take this bread and wine, the produce of earth and fruit of human labor.

In these, Jesus has promised to be present;

through these, Christ feeds us.

Lord Jesus,

open our hearts to believe that you come in this meal of grace. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

One in body, one in Spirit, we pray:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who

sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and taste the joy of God!

Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Our communion bread is gluten-free, unless noted by the pastor. Grape juice is available; indicate your need to the communion assistant. If you worship through the Livestream and wish to receive communion, please reach out to one of the pastors.

THE COMMUNION



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

ELW 304

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now

ELW 448

Children of the Heavenly Father

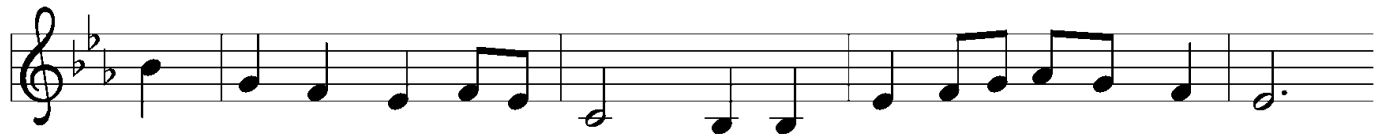
ELW 781

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

The God who faithfully brings forth justice ☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.

Amen.

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| SENDING HYMN | Songs of Thankfulness and Praise | ELW 310 |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---------|

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Nun danket alle Gott

(Now Thank We All Our God)

Johann Crüger
setting, Albert L. Travis

BLC Musicians

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Dr. Jim Jefferis, Director of The Chancel Choir

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

Thank you to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! Want to learn more about what roles are needed in worship or sign-up for a pre-scheduled role? Fill out the survey on the table in the narthex and place it in the basket or speak with a pastor.

Communicate with us: Share more about who you are, request further information, or leave a prayer request or comment through our website - <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> - scroll down the page to request or share information.

What's happening at BLC this week? Visit the Calendar of Events at www.blcfairport.org. Zoom links for virtual meetings are also found there. If you would like to schedule a meeting or event, please email the church office at office@blcfairport.org or visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>

Church office hours: Our co-Pastors are available Sunday-Thursday and on-call for emergencies. Contact them directly to schedule an appointment either by calling (585)223-0634 or emailing pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org or pastor.amy@blcfairport.org.

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The Power of a God Who Is Humble

From the time Jesus first presented himself for baptism by John until today, Christians have puzzled over why Jesus had to be baptized. The act of baptism was understood to be an act of repentance and the cleansing of one's sins. John does not understand why Jesus, whose sandals John is "not worthy to carry" (Matt. 3:11) should seek to be baptized. Instead, John declares to Jesus, "I need to be baptized by you" (Matt. 3:14). Why should the Son of God, who is without sin, need to be baptized?

Frederick Dale Bruner, in *Matthew: A Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004), says that he considers Jesus' first miracle to have occurred at his baptism. The miracle is that Jesus was humble. The divine Son of God humbles himself by allowing John to baptize him. This act of humility is an act of obedience to God and solidarity with all humankind. Jesus has no sins to be forgiven. However, for us, he goes down to the river of repentance with all the other sinners to be baptized. Jesus' baptism, his first adult act as recorded in Matthew's gospel, gives us a clear indication of how Jesus will act for his entire life. The Son of God will come down with us, on our level, identifying with our needs. His baptism, then, foreshadows how his life will end, on the cross. In his death, Jesus experiences the worst we could ever experience as mortal humans. But, because Jesus united with us in baptism, we are united with him in both his death and resurrection. The barriers that separate us from God, including the barriers of sinfulness, mortality, and death, are broken by Jesus' obedience to God, through his humility to come down to us in the depths of our humanity.