



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

January 11, 2026 ✚ THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

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 ✚

Prelude

(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by snack bags. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please take the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.



THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

**If we say we have fellowship with him
while we are walking in darkness,
we lie and do not do what is true.**

But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

**Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.**

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

(Silence is kept for self-reflection and confession.)

Most merciful God,

troubled and penitent, we confess our sins to you.

Our deeds are evil; we have loved darkness rather than the light.

We languish in the shadow of death.

**Let your mercy dawn upon us for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son,
with whom you are well pleased.**

Within our hearts, and in our lives, let there be light!

God, who once commanded light to shine out of the darkness,
has shone in our hearts to give the light
of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ,
who was handed over to death for our trespasses
and was raised for our justification.

For his sake our sins are forgiven.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, walk as children of light. **Amen.**

Gathering Song

Shall We Gather at the River

#423



- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod.
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899
Music: Robert Lowry
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Baptism of Our Lord Litany

The baptism of Christ in the Jordan marked the beginning
of an amazing ministry of abundant love.

And our baptisms mark the beginning of our lives of faith.

Through baptism, our bodies daily die to sin,
and God's redeeming work has begun.

Restore us and redeem us this day, beloved Son of God.

Through baptism, temptation's chaos and confusion are stilled,
and God's peace has begun in us.

Grant us peace this day, beloved Son of God.

Through baptism, the cold winds of death have lost their bite
and the breath of God's Spirit has begun to work within us.

Send us your Spirit, beloved Son of God.

Through baptism, the way to salvation is introduced into our hearts.

Clear a path to your kingdom, beloved Son of God.

For he who has begun a good work within us

will bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

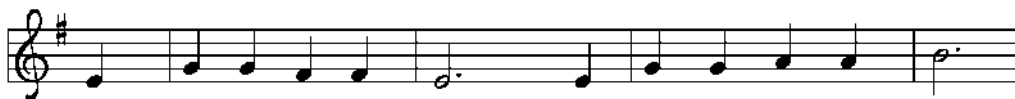
Apostolic Greeting

The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the wisdom of God the Father,
and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

ELW setting 10



Hymn of Praise

ELW setting 10



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

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.

✝ WORD ✝

First 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.

A reading from Isaiah.

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.**

Psalm 29

Let us read Psalm 29 responsively.

¹Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**²Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

**⁴The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**⁶the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**⁸The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.

**¹¹O Lord, give strength to your people;
give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.**

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

A reading from Acts.


³⁴Then Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus

Christ — he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse

ELW setting 10



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.

Holy 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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.**

Children's Time Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized* #304



1 Christ, when for us you were hap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
give your life for all, to give your life for all.
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Affirmation of Baptism

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism
as we come before God to make public affirmation
of our baptism into Christ.

Let us pray.... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

Merciful God,

we thank you for these sisters and brothers,
whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.
You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of
your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith.
Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.
We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin,
and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **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.

A Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church.

Heal our divisions and unite us in mission.

Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, vicars, and bishops,
and all who proclaim hope in a broken world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Restoring God,
cleans 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, **receive our prayer.**

A 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, **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, *especially...*
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation,
that we may serve Christ by loving one another,
our neighbors, and our enemies.
We pray for travelers and those who are homebound.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ.
We give thanks for those who have gone before us,
and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace.
Merciful God, **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. **Amen.**

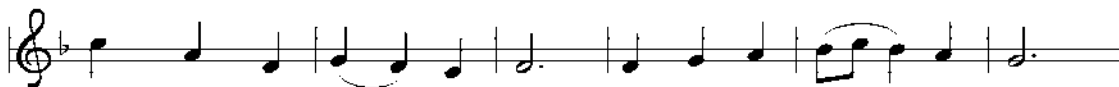
Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

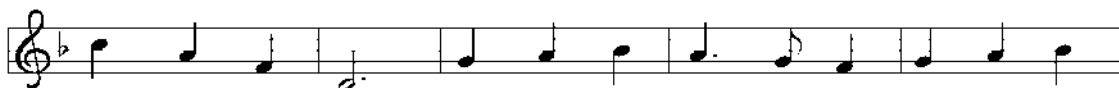
✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

(Tune: #408)



Un - chang - ing Fa-ther of Lights in whom the world de - lights,
There - fore your prais-es we sing, and in our hands we bring



by whom we live: help us to un - der-stand your ev - er -
gifts in re - turn. Use them, we hum - bly pray, to spread the



op - en hand brings bless-ings to the land; great gifts you give!
light of day that all, by its glad ray, your love may learn.

Tune: Public Domain

✠ MEAL ✠

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,
It is right to give our thanks and praise.



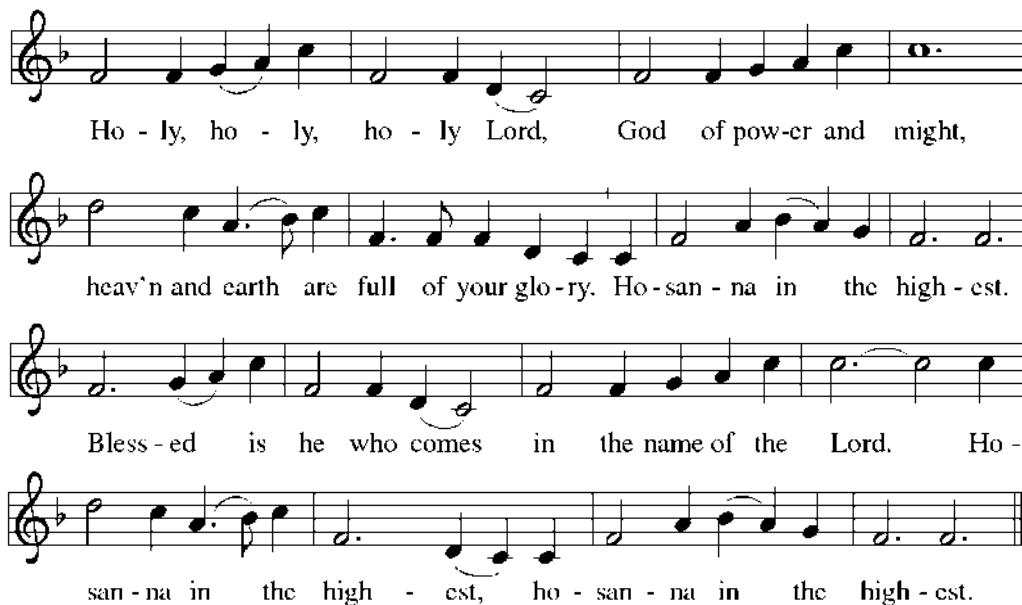
Proper Preface

God of hope, in your Holy Spirit
you hovered over the face of the waters in creation,
and in your pillar of fire
you led your people to liberation across the Red Sea.
Through the waters you brought your people into the life
and land of promise.

In your Son's baptism at the Jordan
 we see your creative and liberating purpose at work
 amid our human flaws and failures,
 and we hear anew with hope the promise of your voice.
 In our own baptism you number us among your saints,
 created and redeemed for your glory.
 Through baptism you bury us in death with Christ
 yet raise us to new life with him forever.
 And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels and archangels,
 and all the company of heaven,
 singing the hymn of your unending praise.

Sanctus

ELW setting 10



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Blessing God,
 who sent down your Holy Spirit like a dove upon your Beloved,
 send your Spirit among us now to sanctify us by your grace.
 By the power of that same Spirit, make these gifts of bread and wine
 be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;

who, at supper with his disciples took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

*Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you;
do this for the remembrance of me.*

After supper, Jesus took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

*Drink this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Father of glory, you have opened your heaven and come among us.

Be close to those who ache for your liberating power
in the midst of travails and seek your open heaven.

Visit all who need the healing, forgiving, peacemaking,
and restoring touch of your Spirit and look for your kingdom to come.

Bless all who long to be called beloved,

by sibling or parent or spouse or friend or child,

and any who are searching for the love that only you can bring,

until all stand in your presence, and sing your name,

and are enfolded in your embrace,

Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...

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.

Agnus Dei

ELW setting 10



- 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.

Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Distribution Hymn

Spirit of Gentleness

#396

Refrain



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen-tle-ness, blow through the wil-der-ness



call-ing and free; Spir - it, Spir-it of rest-less-ness,



stir me from plac-id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an-cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



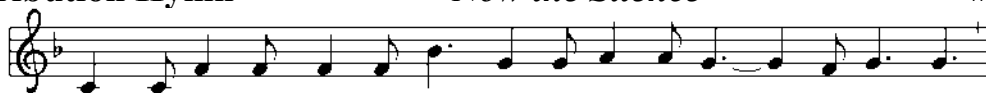
"A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
With . . . hold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

Text & Music: James K. Manley, b. 1940
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Distribution Hymn

Now the Silence

#460



Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed



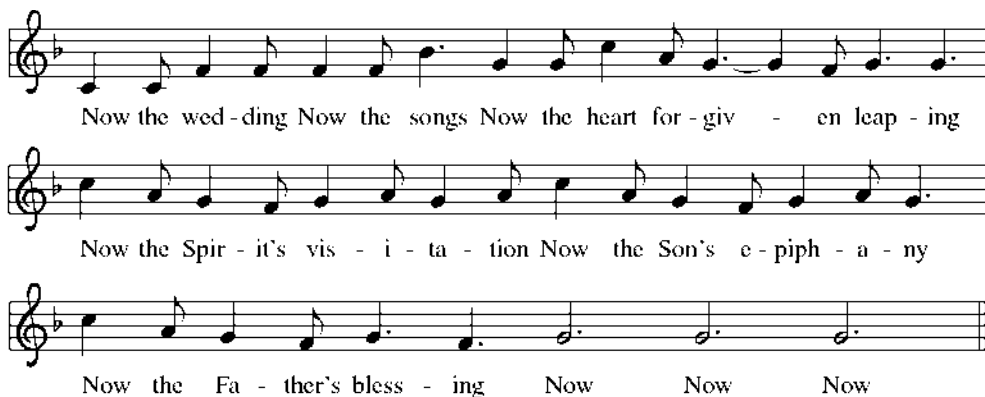
Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come



Now the hear - ing Now the pow'r Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing



Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919
 Music: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
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Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
 strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

Radiant God,

we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

**In the sacrament of his body and blood
 you have drawn us to your heart.**

Send us from this table with delight,

**that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
 and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements

Benediction

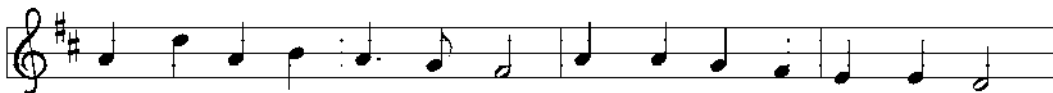
May God, the Source of life, hold you in the faith;
 Jesus, the Word of life, speak clearly in truth around you;
 and may the Holy Spirit, God's breath of life, grace, and wisdom,

sing in your inmost being this day and all your days.
In the name of the Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

#310



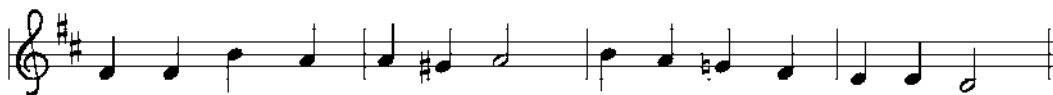
- 1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
- 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;
- 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint - ing soul;
- 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
grace to in - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill;
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny.



an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt.

Music: Jakob Hintze, 1622-1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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The Baptism of Jesus

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:13-17



T Y Y J K E W N U P D N O I D
 D Z J J V S E U G J Z X F X G
 V Q V O C X P Y I A E R J M I
 O A L I H W F I M S L S D W F
 I O M K F N U A R Z H I U P X
 C M X X B F L E T I U P L S X
 E H S O N Z F T J N T Z W E U
 A I K R Z X I J S Y B E L R E
 K U A D P S L O B Y A T T K P
 C O W S D K L R K C P W H F Q
 Y P D E G A G D W I T A E L M
 E E S O R P M A E M I T A B S
 B N K U V H D N B M Z E V P G
 S E W R L E Z O A H E R E A Z
 T D P L E A S E D O D L N N Z

GALILEE
 OPENED
 JORDAN

HEAVEN
 DOVE
 WATER

VOICE
 JOHN
 FULFILL

LOVE
 PLEASED
 BAPTIZED

JESUS
 SON
 SPIRIT