



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

January 12, 2025 ✚ THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

✚ 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 pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up 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.**

(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 your 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

On this day when our Lord Jesus was baptized,
**we remember all those who have been baptized in our church
in the last year:**

*Noah Topher Lindgren, Cal Olsen Rasmussen,
Kendyl Harper Paulson, Wylder Douglas Heesacker,
Riggs Rhys Bernt, Halsey Ann Rugg,
Daphne Clara Briesse, Kolter Kent Reestman,
Jack Leo Wolf, Fletcher Jack Leetch*

Our Father has called each of these people by name to be his children.

And we are his children, too.

Our Savior has called each of these people by name to be his disciples.

And we are his disciples, too.

The Holy Spirit has called each of these people by name
to be servants of the Lord.

And we are the Lord's servants, too.

God, the Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit has called each of us by name.

May we always live our lives in the name of the Lord!

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.

Hymn of Praise

This Is My Beloved Son

(Tune: #270)



“This is my be - lov - ed Son,” God’s bap-tis - mal voice in - tones
We are bap - tized in his name, Je - sus Christ, “Be-hold the Lamb!”
Through the wa - ters we have come, bap-tized in the name of One,



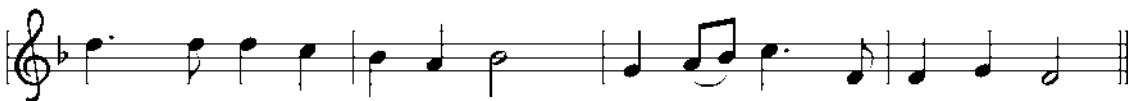
See the Spir - it now come down, list - en to the heav’n-ly sound.
“This is he,” the bap - tist said; “Fol - low him, not me in - stead.
God Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Son, we are made to be God’s own.



Like a dove it now de - scends, beat-ing wings and rush-ing winds.
He in-crease while I grow small. On - ly he is Lord of all!”
Through the Red Sea wa - ters lead, through the dark - ness of our need,



God has o - pened heav-en's door, rain - ing love for - ev - er - more -
Live for Christ, on him de-pend, liv - ing wat - ers with-out end.
From our sla - ver - y to sin, from our self - ish - ness with - in,



Once a flood to cleanse our sins, now new life by wa - ter wins.
Cup of life which o - ver-flows, pour up - on us here be - low.
Take, us Lord, and make us new, bound in cov - en - ant with you.

Tune: Public Domain

Prayer of the Day

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

Almighty God,

**you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit
and revealed him as your beloved Son.**

**Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit
faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called
children of God, 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 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth —

⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

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 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

A reading from Acts.

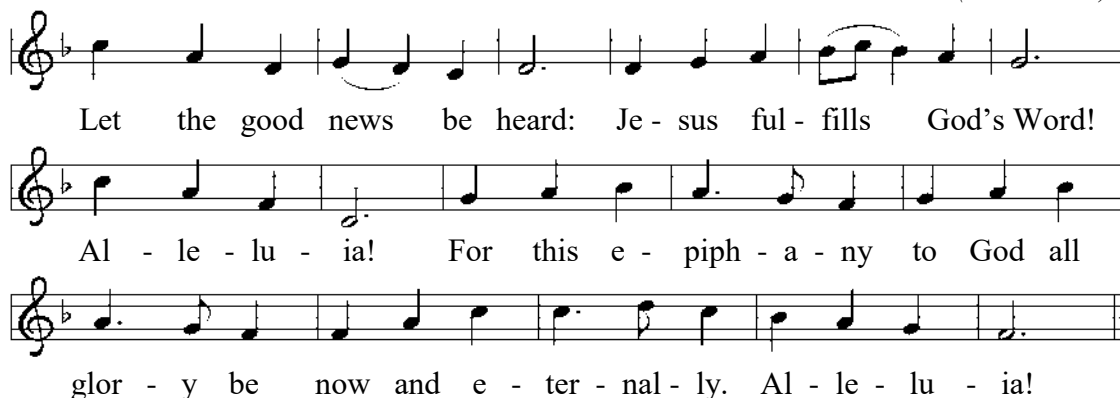
¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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



Alleluia Verse

(Tune: #408)



Let the good news be heard: Je - sus ful - fills God's Word!

Al - le - lu - ia! For this e - piph - a - ny to God all

glor - y be now and e - ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia!

Tune: Public Domain

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

The Holy Gospel according St. Luke, the 3rd Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

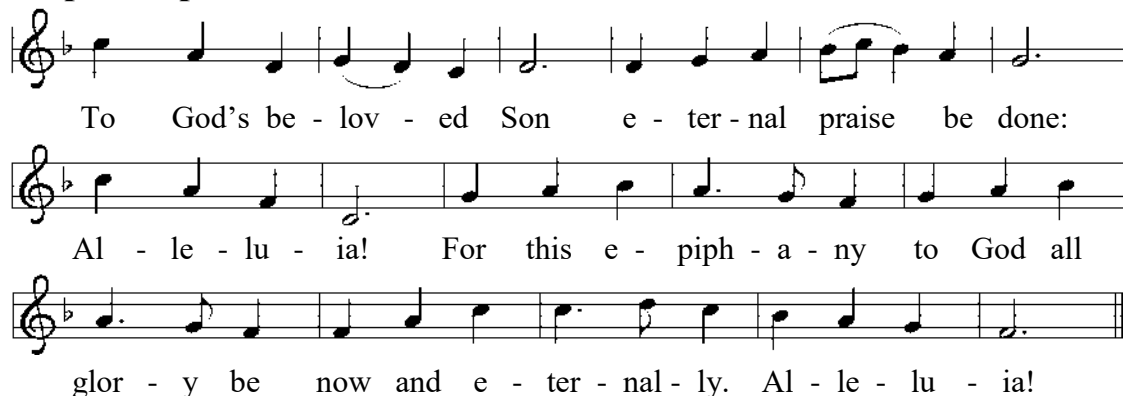
¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel Response

(Tune: #408)



To God's be - lov - ed Son e - ter - nal praise be done:
Al - le - lu - ia! For this e - piph - a - ny to God all
glor - y be now and e - ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia!

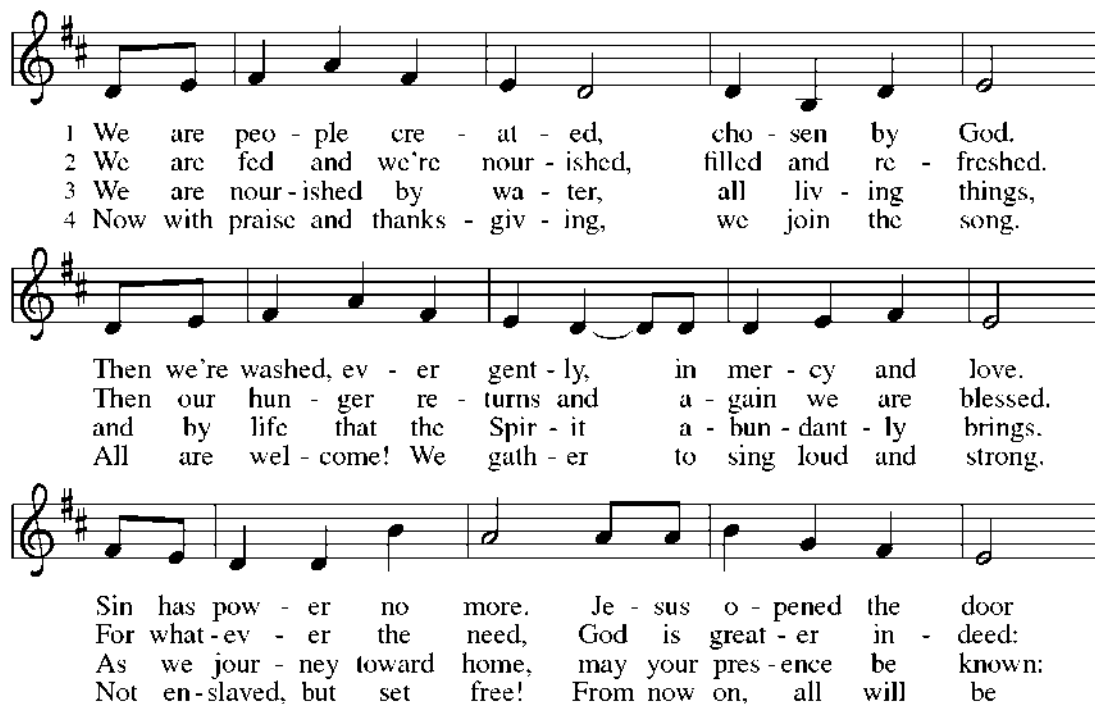
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Children's Time Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Baptized and Set Free

#453



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.

Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.

Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun-tain bring-ing heal-ing, and whole-ness and more.
end-less o - cean, al-ways deep-er than all of our need.
pre-cious riv - er, ev - er - flow-ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text & Music: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
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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 With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us,
let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A You call us by name and form us.

We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P Your voice sounds over the waters.

Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A You give strength to your people.

Uphold all who serve the common good.

Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P You are with us in challenging times.

Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery, especially...

Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges.

Uphold each person as your beloved.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A You draw us into community.

Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve.

Dwell with us in this life and, at the last,
join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope
that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

Peace

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

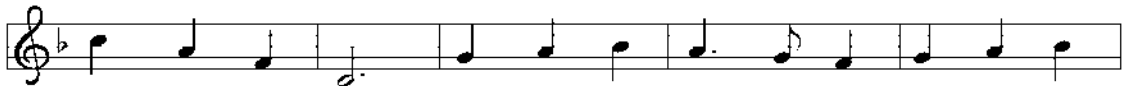
✠ OFFERING ✠

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

Christ is the Lamb of God

(Tune: #408)



Christ is the Lamb of God. For our sakes, to the cross he trod.
O Lamb of God, for our sal - va - tion we give thanks and
praise to Thee now and e - ter - nal - ly, O Lamb of God

Tune: Public Domain

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, 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 love 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

(Tune: #742)



Lamb of God, our might-y Sav - ior all our sins you take a - way.



Lamb of God, by your great fa - vor, Lord, have mer-cy now, we pray.



Lamb of God, our pray'rs a - ttend - ing, nev - er let your mer-cies cease,



But, your Ho - ly Spir - it send - ing, grant us all your gift of peace.

Tune: Public Domain

Distribution

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

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Distribution Hymn

Spirit of Gentleness

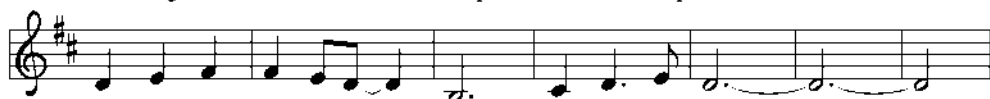
#396



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.

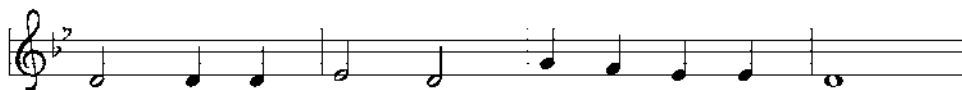


"A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

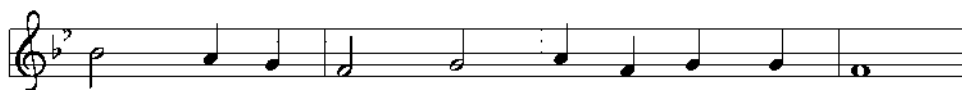
Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940
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Distribution Hymn *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

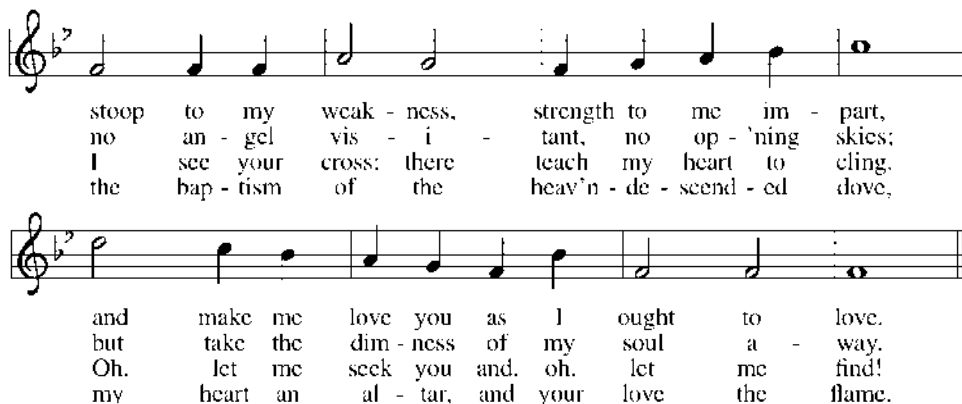
#800



- 1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
- 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et cc - sta - sies,
- 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
- 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love.



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay.
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross: there teach my heart to cling,
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,
 and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh. let me seek you and. oh. let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860
 Music: Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897
 Public Domain

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.)*

Nourishing God,

at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.

Strengthen us for service, and send us out

**to embody your good news of liberation and healing
for the sake of the world.**

In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements

Benediction

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,
who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name,

✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forevermore.

Amen.

Sending Song

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.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.

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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

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:10-11

Based on Mark 1:4-11 (NIV)



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

REPENT
CLOTHING
LOCUSTS
SPIRIT

JORDAN
SINS
WATER
CONFESS

FORGIVE
JESUS
RIVER
HONEY

HEAVEN
WILD
BAPTIZED
JOHN