



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620

www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org + 402-395-2043

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

January 7, 2024 ✚ THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

✚ 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 walk in the light as he is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.**

Today we celebrate our Lord's Baptism,
and the power of the Holy Spirit at work in him.

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

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.
Like bruised reeds and dimly burning wicks,
we are in need of healing.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and let your light shine upon us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power;
in him there is repentance and forgiveness, strength and healing;
by him we are set free from the darkness that blinded us.

As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ,
and by his authority, I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
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
Public Domain

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
within the last year:**

*Knox Everett Berger, Axel Otis Kardell, Hesston Patrick Rugg,
Riah Rane Bernt, Adler James Schnoor, Axton Hayes Schnoor,
Baker Blair Rasmussen, Grant Wesley Rasmussen, Castyn Jhett Nelson,
Huxlee Michael McMillan-Dozler, Parker James Roberg*



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

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.)*

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness,
your voice moves over the waters.

**Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit,
that we may follow after your Son,
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

Genesis 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

A reading from Genesis.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

Psalm 29

Let us read the 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 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John’s baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

A reading from Acts.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.
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

Mark 1:4-11

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And 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.**

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 As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness.

Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community.

Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world.

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

P Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters.

Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized.

May fields flourish and grow.

Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land

to cherish your good works.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A Give strength to your leaders,
God who is present in every country and community.
Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing.
Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength.
Accompany those separated from family
or hurting from broken relationships.
Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty.
Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers.
Care for the sick and suffering, especially...
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples.
Guide us in accompanying, learning from,
and serving our neighbors on the margins,
following the example of Jesus.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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

A Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit,
we remember all who have died and rest in God's care.
Give hope to those who grieve
even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us,
we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts
in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

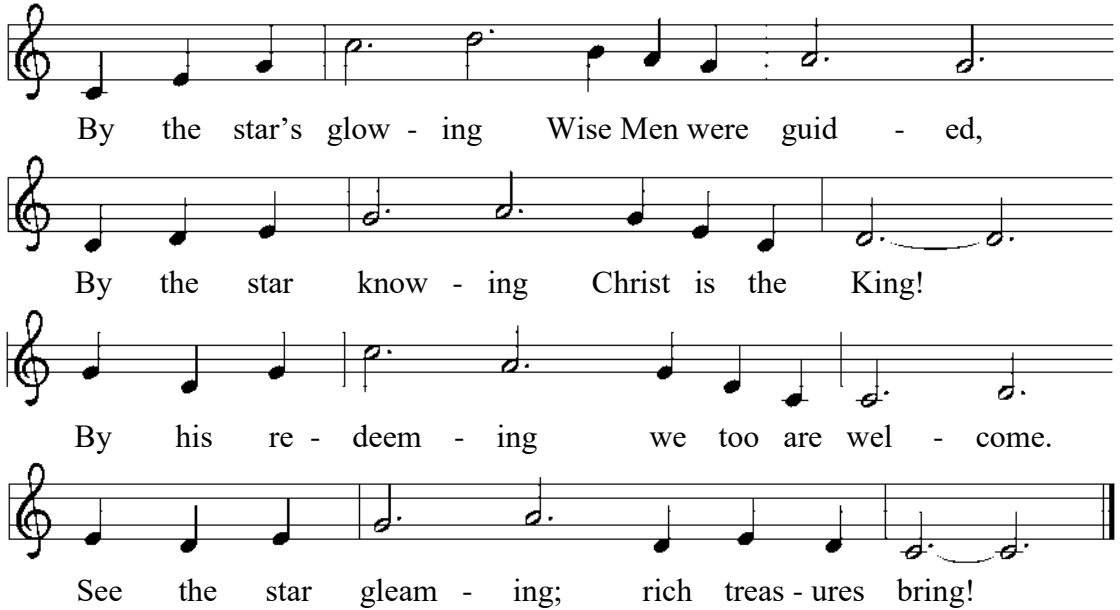
Peace

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

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

(Tune: #556)



By the star's glow - ing Wise Men were guid - ed,
By the star know - ing Christ is the King!
By his re - deem - ing we too are wel - come.
See the star gleam - ing; rich treas - ures bring!

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.



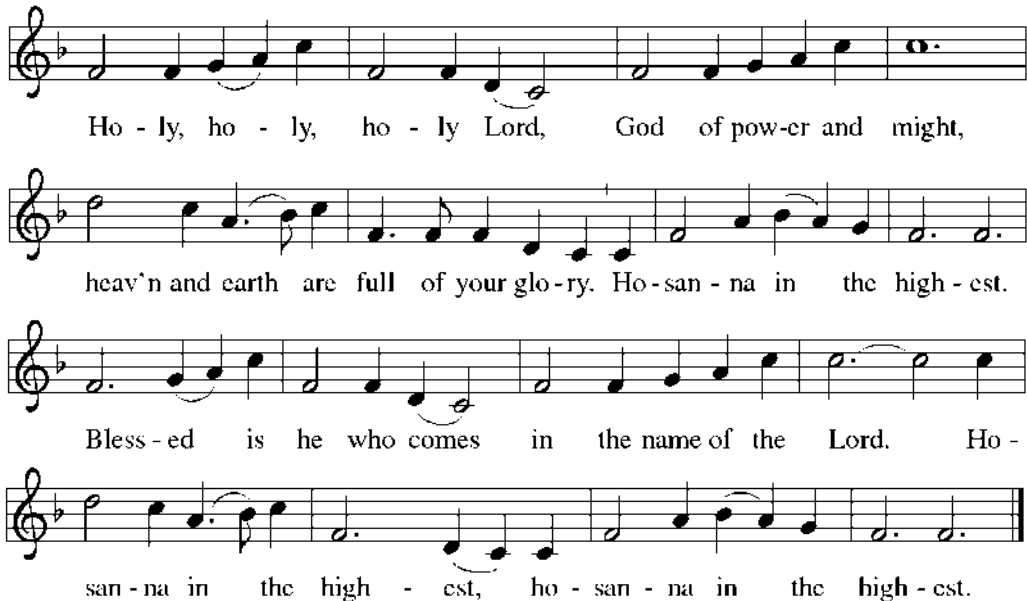
Proper Preface

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, 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

I've Got Peace Like a River

TFF #258



1 I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er,
2 I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain,
3 I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean,



I've got peace like a riv - er in my soul;
I've got joy like a foun-tain in my soul;
I've got love like an o - cean in my soul;



I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er,
I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain,
I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean,



I've got peace like a riv - er in my soul.
 I've got joy like a foun - tain in my soul.
 I've got love like an o - cean in my soul.

Text: Traditional
 Music: African American Spiritual
 Tune: Public Domain

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 . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo-ple a - rise.

Text & Music: James K. Manley, b. 1940
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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.)*

Giver of every gift,

Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.

Raise us to life by your power

for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements

Benediction

God who names you, Christ who claims you,
 and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,

✠ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Song

God, Whose Almighty Word

#673



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.
Music: Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796
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Dismissal

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



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E	G	N	I	H	C	A	E	R	P	JOHN	POWERFUL	KNEEL
S	A	N	D	A	L	I	C	E	O	STRAP	SANDAL	BAPTISED
P	A	R	T	S	R	E	T	A	W	WATER	SPIRIT	HEAVENS
I	S	T	N	N	K	D	V	O	E	DOVE	VOICE	BELOVED
R	A	R	H	E	E	N	Y	E	R			
I	O	O	E	V	O	D	E	O	F			
T	J	E	O	A	O	H	S	E	U			
P	O	L	I	E	C	I	N	A	L			
A	E	V	E	H	V	O	C	E	N			
B	A	P	T	I	S	E	D	E	D			