



**Welcome to Worship at  
Adoration!**

*If you're visiting with us or  
new to our congregation,  
please sign the welcome  
book at the entrance to the  
church.*

*Please introduce yourself to  
someone!*

*We'd love to share more  
about our faith community  
with you.*

††††††

**Introduction**

*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.*

*Sunday, January 7th, 2024*  
*The Baptism of Our Lord*  
*Worship with Holy Communion*

Our worship service uses *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, the red hymnal in your pew.

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

***Gathering***

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*You are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

**Invocation**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness  
and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your  
people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give  
us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your  
Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our  
Lord. **Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one  
another. (*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*)

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. In your compassion  
forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done  
and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we  
may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor  
and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all  
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in  
eternal life. **Amen**

**Gathering Hymn: *Baptized in Water* ELW #456**



*Children are invited forward for an age-specific message focused on the day's reading and the lesson they will study in Sunday School. The children will be dismissed for their own Sunday School learning time after their time in front and return with their leaders in time for Communion.*



*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.*



*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.*

## 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.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. **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**  
*Please be seated.*

## Children's Time

### Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5

Today's Hebrew Bible lesson comes from Genesis.

<sup>1</sup>When God began to create the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God 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**

## Musical Setting of Psalm 29

**Arise Your Light Has Come**

**ELW #314**



## Second Lesson: Acts 19:1-7

Today's lesson comes from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?"

*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.*



They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” <sup>3</sup> Then he said, “Into what, then, were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” <sup>4</sup> Paul 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.” <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied, <sup>7</sup> altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

*You are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia ELW #175**

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:4-11**

The holy gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

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

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

**We pray for those in need:**

Diane Jelinek, mourning the death of her mother, Violet;  
 Barb Regent and family, mourning the death of her uncle John;  
 Patricia Harton, grieving the death of her husband Dennis;  
 John Imp;  
 Donna Babilus;  
 Cheryl Hagfors;  
 Goldie McMahan (Pr. Matt's cousin's baby);  
 Ray, friend of Jan Rinderle;  
 Joyce Weinert's granddaughter, hospitalized with RSV;  
 Karen, sister of Sandy Ringwall;  
 Cathy, family member of Barb and Rich Regent, who has stomach issues and will be undergoing tests;  
 Judith, friend of Crystal, who is hospitalized with complications after donating part of her liver and for the recipient;  
 Scott Kaczor, cousin of Sandy Witt, who is having prostate cancer surgery;  
 Irene and John (Barb Regent's aunt and uncle); in health-related transitions;  
 Zelka Marincak, cousin of Barb and Rich Regent, rehabbing from brain surgery;  
 Ethel Bach, sister of Jeanette Nowakowski, with white lung disease;  
 Deborah Bach, sister of Jeanette Nowakowski, with neck cancer;  
 Earlann Wilson, sister of Jeanette Nowakowski, with cancer;  
 Brandi, family friend of the Bednar's, who is battling cancer;  
 Steve and Colleen (Friends of Karen Webb);  
 Anne, friend of Sandy Young;  
 Individuals in recovery from addiction;  
 Victoria, with cancer (Deanna Posig);  
 Joyce, with cancer (Jan Rinderle);  
 The Nelson/Hartman family;  
 Felicia Bruyette, sister-in-law of Kelly (Jeff) Faltersack;  
 Cecilia, friend of Jill Lindberg, who is battling aggressive breast cancer;  
 Mary, Sandy Young's sister;  
 Jerry, Bruce Crueger's brother;  
 Karen, Sandy Ringwall's sister;  
 Joy Braun (friend of Sue Clark);  
 Amy & Family (friends of Kathy Wakefield)

**Hymn of the Day:*****Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized ELW #304*****Thanksgiving for Baptism***You are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water is poured into the font as the congregation gives thanks.*

**We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.**

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

**Prayers of Intercession**

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.*

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow.



**We continue to pray for strength for:**

Michael Kruse (Pr. Matt's brother);  
Betty Wing;  
Linda and Donna, Betty Wing's sisters;  
Joani Bettin;  
Kathy Imp;  
Marylee Dye;  
Ruth Bauer;  
Pat Koch;  
Mary Anne Markiewicz;  
Tom Durham (Pr. Delaney's cousin);  
Ivy Rose Eigner, granddaughter of Sandy & Charlie;  
Eric, Crystal's brother

**We keep in our prayers:**

Dawn (friend of Sandy and Bob Young);  
Pat (cousin of Donna Babilus);  
Scott and Debbie (family of Margaret Duris);  
Keith (Sandy Eigner's brother-in-law);  
Susan (Darlene Witkowiak's daughter);  
Jeremy (Tom Nowakowski's nephew);  
Caroline (Jill Lindberg's daughter);  
Shelby and the family of Taylor Daniels (friends of Crystal Januchowski)

**We pray for the following with our siblings across the ELCA:**

For peace among nations, especially between Israel and Palestine, Russia and Ukraine...  
For victims of and responders to the runway crash in Tokyo, Japan...  
For relief and recovery efforts following an earthquake in western Japan...  
For continued tensions and disruptions among those traveling the Red Sea...  
For all victims of gun violence...  
For renewed commitments to compassion, collaboration, and equity across political divides...  
For astronomers, physicists, photographers, and all artists who reveal the beauty and mystery of the cosmos to us...



Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God you are 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.**

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 those we name before you now. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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.**

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.**

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 the Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

*Please share signs of peace with those in your vicinity. Then you may be seated.*

**Offering**

*We share our tithes and offerings with God.*



## ***Meal***

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*You are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

### **Offertory Prayer**

Let us pray. **Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.**

**With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### **Proper Preface**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Parent, through Christ our Lord. In Jesus you have received us as your children, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us your Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **Holy, Holy, Holy**

***ELW #308, verse 5***

*Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!*

*Our joy be all with music crowned,*

*our voices gaily blending!*

*For Christ goes with us all the way—*

*today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!*

*His love is never ending!*

*Sing out! Ring out!*

*Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!*

*Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!*

**ON RECEIVING HOLY  
COMMUNION**

*You are invited to the Lord's Table by the Lord Jesus Christ himself. Therefore, Adoration Lutheran Church practices "Open Communion," which means we do not restrict anyone from receiving this grace-filled gift of God. Jesus loves everyone and welcomes everyone to his table of grace and peace.*



*We come forward to share in Holy Communion today. You may choose to receive a wafer and a poured cup of wine or juice or a pre-sealed packet containing both a wafer and juice.*

*Gluten-free wafers available by indicating your need to the server.*

*Consecrated Goldfish crackers are available for children.*

*All are welcome to come forth and receive a blessing.*

*Please place used cups in the baskets on the end of the front pews.*

**Eucharistic Prayer**

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future. **We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:

at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

**Words of Institution**

**Invocation of the Spirit**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

**Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, world without end. Amen**

**Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray 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**

**Invitation to Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good. *Please be seated.*

**Today's Lay Leaders****Lector:** George Becket**Ushers:** Gary Goesch and  
Linda Kolar-Wood**Communion Assistant:**  
Judy Goodwin**Altar Guild:** Deanna Posig**Music & Worship  
Coordinator:**  
Barb Regent**Copyright Information**

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**Communion****Hymn During Communion (Please Sing Along!)****Let Us Break Bread Together** **ELW #471***You are invited to stand in body or spirit.***Post-Communion Blessing****Prayer After Communion**

Let us pray. 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****God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.***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 Hymn****Songs of Thankfulness & Praise** **ELW #310****Dismissal**

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

**Thanks be to God!****Postlude*****Adoration Lutheran Church****A Congregation of the**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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