



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are brothers and sisters in Christ who are about **“Proclaiming God’s grace through faith and love.”**

*If you are a visitor, please make yourself at home and don’t hesitate to ask a question. There will be the celebration of Holy Communion in the **10:30a.m. service** today. If you are not a member of Grace and desire to commune, please speak with the pastor **before the service**. If you are physically unable to commune at the altar, the pastor would be happy to serve you in your pew. Please, notify an usher before the service begins.*

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 5, 2025

Today in Worship

- Today is the first of the bookends that mark the Epiphany season—the Baptism of Our Lord and His Transfiguration. In common is the command from God to “listen to Him.” We begin our journey of listening to the Lord, learning from those who went before, acknowledging the revelation of the Lamb of God in baptismal water, and looking to Him, the Word made flesh. In His Baptism, our Lord was not washed because He was unclean but because we are. The Father saw the prophetic words of Isaiah fulfilled in the water of the Jordan, and He claimed Jesus as His own Son and our appointed Redeemer. “You are Mine,” said the Lord to Jesus. Because He said those words to Jesus, they are now addressed to us—the people for whom Jesus was baptized.
- The back of the bulletin throughout 2025 is going to contain info on the Formula of Concord reading plan. We wish to see everyone stay active in reading this year whether you choose to read daily in the Bible or you choose to also join in reading through the Lutheran Confessions.



Ringling of the Bells

Announcements (10:30am Service)

Welcome

Opening Hymn

*Lutheran Service Book #605
"Father Welcomes"*

Invocation & Sentences

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P With these words you are baptized into Christ and given the new birth of water and the Spirit.

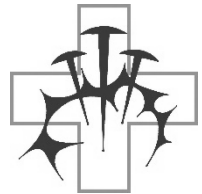
C So shall we stand in faith without fear now and forever.

Confession & Absolution

P Yet even as God's people in this world, when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find that we daily struggle against our weakness and sin that so easily besets us. Therefore, let us confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

C God our Father, though You have made us Your own possession by our Baptism into Christ, still we struggle to live as Your redeemed children in this fallen world. Therefore, we confess our sin and weakness to You and in repentance pray You of Your mercy to forgive our sins and grant us Your grace and strength.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.



The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

C Amen.

Psalm 29



P Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly | beings, *

C ascribe to the Lord glo- | ry and strength.

P Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due his name; *

C worship the Lord in the splendor of | holiness.

P The voice of the Lord is over the | waters; *

C the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over many | waters.

P The voice of the Lord is | powerful; *

C the voice of the Lord is full of | majesty.

P The voice of the Lord breaks the | cedars; *

C the Lord breaks the cedars of | Lebanon.

P He makes Lebanon to skip | like a calf, *

C and Sirion like a young | wild ox.

P The voice | of the Lord *

C flashes forth | flames of fire.

P The voice of the Lord shakes the | wilderness; *

C the Lord shakes the wilderness | of Kadesh.

P The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth and strips the | forests bare, *

C and in his temple all cry, | “Glory!”

P The Lord sits enthroned o- | ver the flood; *

C the Lord sits enthroned as king for- | ever.

P May the Lord give strength to his | people! *

C May the Lord bless his people | with peace!

C Glory be to the Father and | to the Son *
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning, *

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Lutheran Service Book #603
"We Know That Christ is Raised"

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray. Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

"I have called you by name, you are Mine."

L The Old Testament Reading for the Baptism of our Lord is from Isaiah, chapter 43.

¹ But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When 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.

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

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

⁴ Because you are precious in my eyes,
and honored, and I love you,
I give men in return for you,
peoples in exchange for your life.

⁵ Fear not, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you.
⁶ I will say to the north, Give up,
and to the south, Do not withhold;
bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the end of the earth,
⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 6:1-11

“By Baptism, we were united with Christ into His death and resurrection.”

L The Epistle Reading is from Romans, chapter six.

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Mark 1:11b

- P** Alleluia. You are My beloved Son;
C with You I am well pleased. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:15-22

“Jesus is baptized in the Jordan River by John.”

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 3rd chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

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

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Confession of Faith

Luther's Small Catechism on Baptism

- P** What is Baptism?
C **Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.**

P Which is that word of God?

C **Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt 28:19)**

P What benefits does Baptism give?

C **It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.**

P Which are these words and promises of God?

C **Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)**

Message for Children from God's Word

Hymn of the Day

*Lutheran Service Book #407, vv1-5
"To Jordan Came the Christ, our Lord"*

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Light of the world,

C **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**

Responses after each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Lord God, heavenly Father, You manifested Yourself with the Holy Spirit in the fullness of grace at the Baptism of Your dear Son. With Your voice, You directed us to the One who has borne our sins, that we may receive grace and forgiveness. Keep us, we implore You, in the true faith. Since we have been baptized in accordance with Your command and the example of Your Son, strengthen our faith by Your Holy Spirit and lead us to everlasting life and salvation;

through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Offering

“But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” – Isaiah 43:1



We encourage you to place your offering in the dropbox in the narthex before service. As the usher brings the offering forward at this time you may also hold it up and place it in the plate as the usher walks by. Please also use this time for prayer and reflection upon what we have heard from the Lord’s Word this morning.

Offertory “What Shall I Render” / Psalm 116 LSB p. 159-160

(10:30 a.m. Services continue page 10 of the Worship Folder.)

8:00 a.m. Service

The Lord’s Prayer

Thanksgiving

P For the joy of saving Noah and his family in the flood, and likewise saving us through the flood of Holy Baptism,

C we thank You, Lord.

P For the joy of John the Baptist, who at the Baptism of Jesus, heard the Father proclaim over Jesus "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

C we thank You, Lord.

P For the joy of Jesus who proclaimed and demonstrated the coming Kingdom, and who suffered, died, rose, and ascended,

C we thank You. We praise You. We adore You, Lord. Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

G Amen.

Greeting of Peace & Announcements

Closing Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #594

“God’s Own Child I Gladly Say It”

This concludes the 8:00 a.m. Service

XX

10:30 a.m. Service

Service of the Sacrament

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.

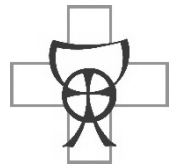
Preface *Sung*

LSB p. 161

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should...

... evermore praising You and saying:



Sanctus <i>“Holy, Holy, Holy”</i>	LSB p. 161
Lord’s Prayer <i>Spoken</i>	LSB p. 162
The Words of our Lord <i>Spoken</i>	LSB p. 162
Pax Domini <i>“The Peace of Our Lord”</i>	LSB p. 163
Agnus Dei <i>“Lamb of God”</i>	LSB p. 163

Distribution Hymns

<i>“To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord”</i>	LSB # 405
<i>“Baptismal Waters Cover Me”</i>	LSB # 616
<i>“All Who Believe and Are Baptized”</i>	LSB # 601

Thank the Lord LSB p. 164

Thanksgiving

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Benediction Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Greeting of Peace

Closing Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #594
“God’s Own Child I Gladly Say It”

Formula of Concord Reading Plan

January – Week 2 – The Week of January 12

The Topic this Month: Original Sin



Read:

- Epitome Article I, paragraphs 2-10 (p. 474-475)
- Apology of the Augsburg Confession Article II (p. 76-81)



Grace
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