



**January 7, 2024**  
***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.*

***Good Morning and Welcome!***

Guests, we are so glad you are here. Please fill out the yellow "Connection Card" in the pew and place in the offering basket or give to the usher or the pastor as you leave. *Sound Assistance and staffed nursery available.*

[Online Worshiper Form \(Guests & Members\)](#)

7740 HIGHWAY 72 W | (256) 721-0041 | MLUTHERAN.ORG

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP**  
*Bread of Life from With One Voice*  
\* Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERLUDE

\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always  
loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not  
always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your  
covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good  
news to all.**

**Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In  
Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are  
forgiven. You are God's beloved.

**Amen.**



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.  
2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.  
3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.  
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.  
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.  
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,  
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.  
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.  
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company, Nashville, TN.

All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

\*THE 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.**

\*THE KYRIE

Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    ⓐ Christ, have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

ⓐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

ⓑ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we  
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

ⓐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

ⓓ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Song Continues on Next Page →

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the  
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**I** For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
**II** you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly  
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.

**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,  
and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the 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. <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 PSALM

*Psalm 29*

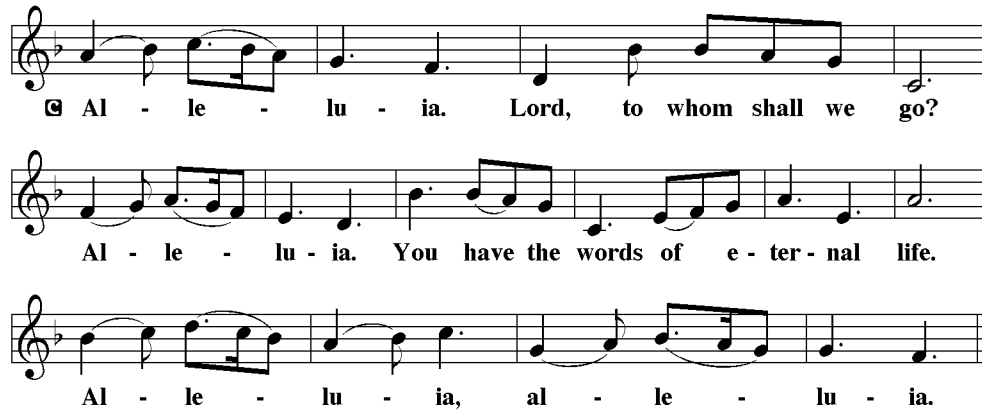
- <sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- <sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God’s name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- <sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- <sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
- <sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- <sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- <sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- <sup>8</sup>**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- <sup>9</sup>The 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!”
- <sup>10</sup>**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
- <sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

## THE SECOND LESSON

Acts 19:1-7

<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?” 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.

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go"



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## \*THE GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## \*THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:4-11

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And 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. <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 thong 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 on him. <sup>11</sup>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.**

## THE SERMON



1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John,  
 2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,  
 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;



he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.  
 for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.  
 this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond - age break.



He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,  
 So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,  
 Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:



to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.  
 the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.  
 to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune

Text © 1980 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

#### \*THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who**

**was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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**



\*THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

\*THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

THE OFFERING

Choir Anthem (8:30): "The Baptism of Our Lord" (Callahan)

Piano Solo (11:00)

\*THE OFFERTORY: "Let the Vineyards be Fruitful, Lord"

Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord,  
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, Holy One,

**for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us.**

**Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus,  
in whose name we pray.**

**Amen**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING & PREFACE**

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.

**\*THE SANCTUS: "Holy, Holy, Holy"**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en 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.

**\*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

## THE AGNUS DEI



☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## THE DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: "This Is the Spirit's Entry Now"

ELW 448



- 1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
- 2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
- 3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
- 4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.  
the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.  
to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.  
that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

Text: Thomas E. Herbranson, b. 1933  
Music: LAND OF REST, North American traditional  
Text © Thomas E. Herbranson, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## HYMN: "Shall We Gather at the River"

ELW 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: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

## HYMN: "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!" (not printed)

LBW (Green Hymnal) 76

\*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: "Thankful Hearts"

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God,  
and lead us forth in joy with shouts  
of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

\*THE BLESSING



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: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

THE DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

## WE REMEMBER IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Please refer to the Prayers of the Day

**THE FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God by Beverly Berry in celebration of sister Chris Berry's birthday, and Jon Eaton in celebration of Kathryn's birthday on the 11th.

**THANK YOU** to Pastor Keith Cook for preaching and leading worship today. Pastor Kris returns from her vacation this Saturday. Please call the church office if emergent pastoral need arises.

**A NURSERY**, staffed by Katrina Strand, is through the double doors in the Narthex leading to the Sunday School classrooms. Newborns, toddlers and children up to Pre-K are welcome. **Katrina's last day as Nursery Attendant is today.** Please take a moment to stop by and thank Katrina for nurturing MLC's wee ones and the nursery initiatives she's made this past year. Katrina is resuming her graduate school studies at Auburn and relocating there with her family. **MLC member Sarah Walker has accepted the position as Nursery Attendant and will start next Sunday, January 14.**

**ALL ARE INVITED** to enjoy coffee, tea, and fellowship after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

**MLC'S TALENT SHOW IS SAT. FEB. 3** at 7:00 p.m. This year's show will be a "calorie cabaret" of delectable desserts prepared by MLC's Youth. All are encouraged to prepare a brief act, song, or other talent to share as part of the event. A free will offering at the door will support youth and the ELCA Youth Gathering. Contact Laura Peterson or Randall Fields if interested.

**CHANCEL FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS** for Sundays in 2024 are available. The cost to sponsor Sunday Flowers is \$30 per household. Up to two households can sponsor a single household. Please see the sign up board in the Narthex. A new, improved sign up board is coming soon.

**THE CALL COMMITTEE FOR A SECOND ROSTERED LEADER** was elected by the Council in December. Members are: Phillippe Reed, Valerie Christensen, Diane Davis, Mike Mabry, Dorothy Seitz, and Mark Zesinger. Please give these faithful disciples your prayers, input, and support as they begin this process of discernment for MLC. They will be installed in the coming weeks.

**GREETER COORDINATOR NEEDED** to ensure Sunday morning guests are welcomed by friendly faces and warm smiles. Training, volunteer rosters and support provided. Call the office if interested.

**KIT MINISTRY ITEM** - Dark Towels (52 x 27) **FOOD PANTRY** - Mac & Cheese

<u>Pastor</u>	Kristine Schroeder	<u>Acolytes</u>	Greyson Pitchko (8:30)
<u>Music &amp; Choir Director</u>	Randall Fields		Jasper Williams (11:00)
<u>Director of Outreach Ministries</u>	Claire Strand	<u>Lectors</u>	Greg Kilby (8:30)
<u>Communication &amp; Tech Director</u>	Meredith Kilby		Jutta DeMarsh (11:00)
<u>Office Managers</u>	Bobbey Huwaldt	<u>Ushers</u>	Susan & Virgil Burren (8:30)
	Meredith Kilby		Mark Thompson, Bill Holbrook (11:00)
<u>Nursery Attendant</u>	Katrina Strand	<u>Cantor</u>	Martin Campbell
		<u>Altar Guild</u>	LeeLinda Baggett (8:30)
			Gretchen Perry (11:00)
		<u>Stream Team</u>	Meredith Kilby (8:30)
			Daniel Hopkin, Craig Martin (11:00)
		<u>Flower Guild</u>	Mary Burke

## **\*\*CHURCH CALENDAR\*\***

### **Sunday, January 7**

- 8:00 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for All Ages
- 9:34 a.m. - Coffee in Fellowship Hall
- 5:00 p.m. - Jr. & Sr. Youth Meet

### **Tuesday, January 9**

- 9:00 a.m. - Comforters

### **Wednesday, January 10**

- 5:00 p.m. - Confirmation
- 5:30 p.m. - Wednesday Night Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. - Cherub Choir
- 6:00 p.m. - Seraph Choir
- 7:30 p.m. - Messiah Choir

### **Sunday, January 14**

- 8:30 a.m. - Service of Worship: *LBW Setting 1* w/the Lord's Supper
- 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for All Ages
- 11:00 a.m. - \*Service of Worship: *LBW Setting 1* w/the Lord's Supper
- 5:00 p.m. - Jr/Sr Youth

*\*These services are live streamed on mlutheran.org*

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

**January 16** - Men of Messiah Gathering (Straight to Ale -5:30 p.m.)

**January 16** - Worship & Music Committee Meeting

**January 18** - Church Council Meeting, Kit Ministry Resumes

**January 21** - MLC Financial Overview Meeting (Time/Location TBA)

**January 22** - Women's Book & Social Club (Kilbys, 6:30 p.m.)

**February 3** - Talent Show

**February 14** - Ash Wednesday / Lent Begins

**March 24** - Passion/Palm Sunday

**March 31** - Resurrection/Easter Sunday

### **Attendance:**

December 24 - Online: 10:00 a.m. - 92, 5:00 p.m. - 102

In Person: 10:00 a.m. - 83, 5:00 p.m. - 187, 7:00 p.m. - 123

December 31 - In-Person: 10:00 a.m. - 55

**GIVE ONLINE**



### **Pastor Kris Schroeder**

Email: [pastor.kris@mlutheran.org](mailto:pastor.kris@mlutheran.org)

Pastor Cell Phone: 480-338-6519

Pastor will be out of the office until Sunday, January 14 for vacation. In the event emergent pastoral care is needed in her absence, please contact the church office at 256-721-0041.

### **SIGN UP GENIUS LINK**

[www.signupgenius.com/tabs/33773DB0EA3CFEECF9-sunday](http://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/33773DB0EA3CFEECF9-sunday)