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**Baptism of Christ**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** | Lodi, California

*January 14, 2024*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God’s grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

* **Bathrooms** are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women’s bathroom.

**WORSHIP THEME**

The Savior is revealed through his baptism. In the Jordan river, the Triune God is present for the public announcement of Christ’s ministry: the Father gives voice to his approval, the Spirit alights on the Son, proving that he is the Messiah: God’s anointed Savior of the world.

Our own baptisms carry the power of this one: God declares that we are his children, bearing his approval because of his grace. The Spirit empowers us for our own lives of faith. The Son took our place in life, and we are now clothed with his righteousness.

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***The Service of the Word***

*We gather as a congregation to hear God’s Word proclaimed and respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.*

**HYMN** *Baptized Into Your Name Most Holy* **| CW’21 680**

M: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**CONFESSION**

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus my Savior I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

# absolution

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C**: **Amen**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**C: ♫ Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**FIRST LESSON** *Isaiah 49:1-6*

*The Servant of the Lord was chosen before his birth to be the Savior of the ends of the earth.*

**49**Listen to me, you islands;  
    hear this, you distant nations:  
Before I was born the Lord called me;  
    from my mother’s womb he has spoken my name.  
**2**He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,  
    in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me into a polished arrow  
    and concealed me in his quiver.  
**3**He said to me, “You are my servant,  
    Israel, in whom I will display my splendor.”  
**4**But I said, “I have labored in vain;  
    I have spent my strength for nothing at all.  
Yet what is due me is in the Lord’s hand,  
    and my reward is with my God.”

**5**And now the Lord says—  
    he who formed me in the womb to be his servant  
to bring Jacob back to him  
    and gather Israel to himself,  
for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord  
    and my God has been my strength—  
**6**he says:  
“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant  
    to restore the tribes of Jacob  
    and bring back those of Israel I have kept.  
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,  
    that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

**PSALM** *Psalm 2, CW’21*

**SECOND LESSON** *Acts 16:25-34*

*The jailer might not have realized what he was asking, but he received more than he likely expected: in his baptism, he received a Savior not just from earthly consequences, but from sin, death, and devil.*

**25**About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. **26**Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. **27**The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. **28**But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

**29**The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. **30**He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

**31**They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” **32**Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. **33**At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. **34**The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

**VERSE OF THE DAY** *Mark 1:11*

**Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased. Alleluia.**

**THE GOSPEL** *Mark 1:4–13*

*Jesus is baptized in the Jordan River and immediately enters the battle for our salvation.*

**4**And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5**The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. **6**John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7**And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. **8**I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**9**At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10**Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. **11**And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

**12**At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, **13**and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord***| CW’21 377**

**SERMON** *Mark 1*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

*In response to God’s love and forgiveness, we give back a portion of what he has given us. The members of Christ Lutheran Church have joined to proclaim the gospel to this community. These offerings support that work. While our guests are welcome to participate, they should not feel obligated to do so.*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: Heavenly Father, You revealed Your Son in the wondrous Epiphany in the Jordan. So also You have revealed Your name and blessing to us in Holy Baptism, declaring us Your beloved heirs. Grant that we may daily die to sin and rise to newness of life, living with joy as Your baptized children. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: O Lord, bless all places where Your people teach and learn. Guide teachers and students, that together we would marvel at Your creation and appreciate the depth of Your wisdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Lord God, grant that all those baptized into Christ would receive the boldness of Your servant John to lead faithful and pure lives in this world, ever mindful of our promised heavenly inheritance. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Almighty Lord, Your Son, Jesus, is the Christ and the true King of this world. Grant great humility to the rulers of the nations, that they would submit to the preaching of His Holy Word for the sake of their own souls and for the good of Your holy people. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Give comfort and relief to those who are sick, depressed, tired, confused or in any need [especially \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_]. Watch over all expectant mothers and their children, [especially \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,] that they may have a safe delivery and be brought also to the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Eternal God, You have made us Your own people by Baptism and granted us Your Holy Spirit to confess Christ in word and deed. We remember with thanksgiving those who went before us, who passed the faith on to us and who now rest in Christ from all their labors. Since we have died with Christ through Baptism, grant that we would be raised with Him also. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Almighty Father, as Your Holy Spirit hovered over the face of the deep, You uttered Your Word and the world was created. In the waters of Holy Baptism, You have spoken our names and declared us righteous. You have drawn us to Jesus, the light of life, and saved us. Let His light now shine through us, that others may see our good works and give glory to You; 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.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**C: 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.**

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

M**:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✙ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** *God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It* **| CW’21 679**

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Pastor Tim Leistekow

**WELCOME TO CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

We preach a message of forgiveness, hope and peace

through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Families and individuals of all ages will find opportunities

both to grow and to serve.

Our mission statement:

**Look what Christ is doing!**

He binds us together in fellowship

He gathers us in for worship

He builds us up for service

He sends us out with the gospel

*“Now you are the body of Christ,*

*and each one of you is a part of it.”*

*(1 Corinthians 12:27)*