**baptism of our lord- JANUARY 7, 2024, zion, philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

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

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (ELW p. 97)**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water,

the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

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.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters

and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,

making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG*Shall We Gather at the River* (ELW 423)**

1 Shall we gather at the river,  
where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever  
flowing by the throne of God?  
  
Refrain  
Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.  
  
2 On the margin of the river,  
washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever,  
all the happy golden day. Refrain  
  
3 Ere we reach the shining river,  
lay we ev'ry burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver,  
and provide a robe and crown. Refrain  
  
4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,  
soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver  
with the melody of peace. Refrain

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETING (ELW p. 184)**

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.**

**KYRIE (ELW p. 184)**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE*Now the Feast and Celebration* (ELW 167)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 188)**

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.**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5**

A reading from Genesis.

*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.*

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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 29**

1Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
 2**Ascribe 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.  
 4**The 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;  
 6**the 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.  
 8**The 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!”  
 10**The 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**

A reading from Acts.

*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.*

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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)**

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**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.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 189)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY- *Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized- (ELW 304)***

1. Christ, when for us you were baptized,

God's Spirit on you came,

as peaceful as a dove, and yet

as urgent as a flame,

as urgent as a flame.

2. God called you, "My beloved Son";

you are God's servant true,

sent to proclaim the reign of heav'n,

God's holy will to do,

God's holy will to do.

3. Straightway and steadfast until death

you then obeyed the call

to serve with free and willing heart,

to give your life for all,

to give your life for all.

4. Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord;

your cross on us be signed,

that likewise in God's service we

may perfect freedom find,

may perfect freedom find.

**CREED (ELW p. 189)**

**We believe in one God,** **the Father, the Almighty,** **maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,** **the only Son of God,** **eternally begotten of the Father,** **God from God, Light from Light,** **true God from true God,** **begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;** **through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation** **he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary** **and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;** **he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again** **in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven** **and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,** **and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,** **who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*** **who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,** **who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.** **We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.** **We look for the resurrection of the dead,** **and the life of the world to come. 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. Uplift pastors and bishops 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.**

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.**

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.**

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 the inured, and all who grieve the loss of loved ones. We especially remember Sarah, Chris, John, Vivian, Felix, Erin, Elizabeth, Zoli, Nick, Jill, our members in long term care Robert, Bea, Evelyn and Rob, and those we name either out loud or in the silence of our hearts.. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Let the Holy Spirit move in, through and around us. 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 especially Eileen Hartung. 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 (ELW p. 189)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 885)**

**OFFERING 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**

**DIALOGUE (ELW p. 190)**

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.**

**PREFACE (ELW p. 190)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 190)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,** **God of pow’r and might,** **heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.** **Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.** **Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 191)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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**

At Jesus’ table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 191)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 191)- Lamb of God**

**COMMUNION HYMNS- 445, 396**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

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* (ELW 673)**

1 God, whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard  
and took their flight:  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light.  
  
2 Christ, who once came to bring,  
on your redeeming wing,  
healing and sight;  
health to the troubled mind,  
sight where illusions blind;  
oh, now to humankind  
let there be light.  
  
3 Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy dove,  
speed forth your flight;  
move on the water's face  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light.  
  
4 Holy and blessed three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might:  
boundless as ocean's tide,  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the earth, far and wide,  
let there be light.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are God’s beloved. **Thanks be to God.**