

**Paradise Lutheran Church - Thomasville, PA**  
**Baptism of Our Lord                      January 14, 2024                      10:15 a.m.**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

*Please stand.*

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light, and our salvation.

**All: Amen.**

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

*Water is poured into the font during the litany of thanksgiving.*

Pastor: 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.

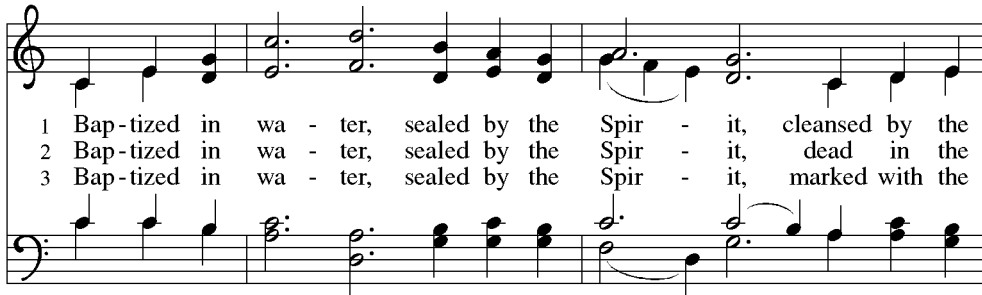
**All: Through the waters of the flood, you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.**

Pastor: 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.

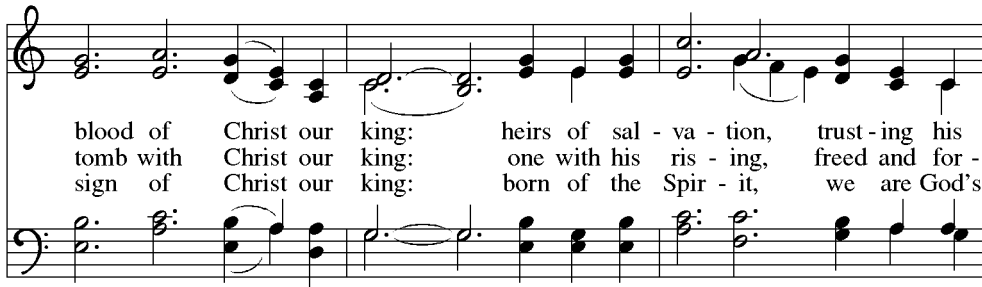
**All: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

Pastor: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **All: Amen.**

## Gathering Song “Baptized in Water”



1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the  
2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the  
3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his  
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -  
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

## Greeting

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

## Kyrie



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



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



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

## Hymn of Praise



**C** This is the feast of vic - to - ry. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia. This is the feast of



vic - to - ry. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

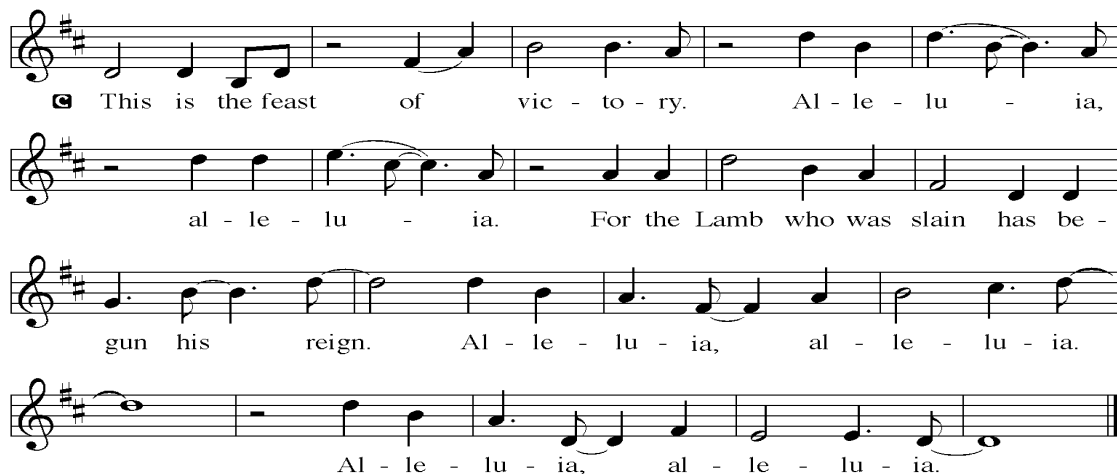
I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

II Pow-er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength, and  
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

III This is the feast of vic - to - ry. Al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia. This is the feast of  
vic - to - ry. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

I Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

II Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be <sup>2</sup> to  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



## Prayer of the Day

Pastor: 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. **All: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**Anthem**

“Borning Cry”

Sanctuary Choir

## First Reading: *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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 29 (read responsively)*

<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.

**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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

### Gospel Acclamation



Pastor: The holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### 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.”

*After the reading:*

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Sermon**

*Please stand.*

## **Hymn of the Day** “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”



- 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!

*Continued* ➤ ➤ ➤





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!

*Please be seated.*

### **Apostles' Creed**

Pastor: We, who are many, are one body in Christ. Together we  
confess our faith, in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**All: 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.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Assisting Minister: Lord, in your mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

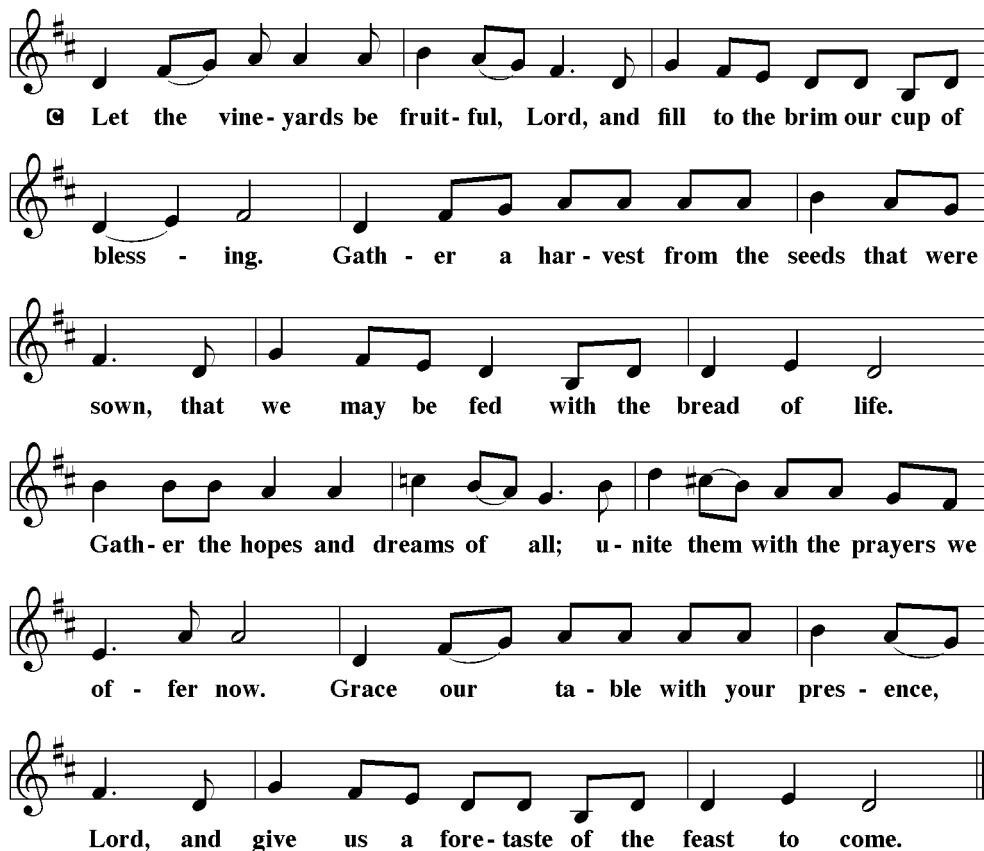
*Please stand.*

## **Sharing of the Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.** (*Please feel free to move around and share the peace of Christ with each other with a sign, handshake, or hug.*)

## **Offertory Response**



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**

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In the 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. **All: Amen.**

## **Dialog**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **Preface**

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks... praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## 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.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

Pastor: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. 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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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:**

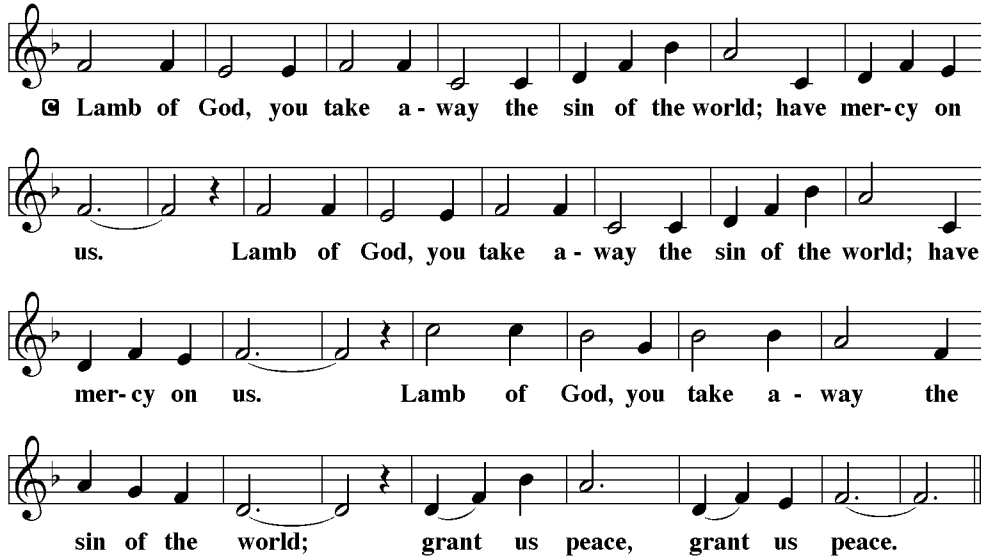
Pastor: This is Christ's table, and he is the host of this meal. So come: you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a while; you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come; Christ promises to meet us here.

*Please be seated.*

*Jesus invites you to his feast! Come forward, as you are able, to receive his body and blood in the bread and wine. (If you need to receive communion in your*

*pew, you can alert us by holding up your hand after the line has gone through, and we will be glad to come to you.)*

## Lamb of God



☐ 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

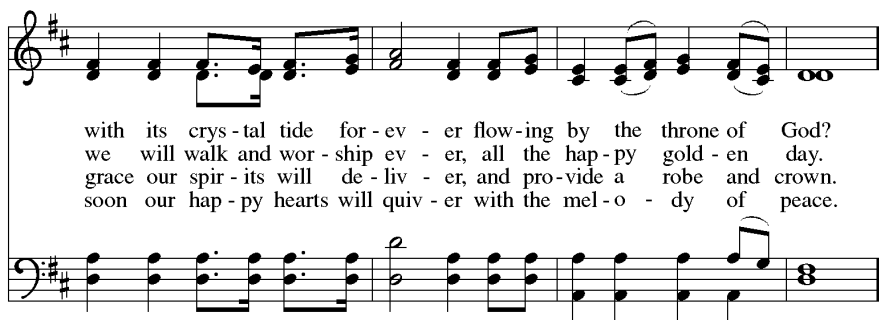
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymn: “Shall We Gather at the River”



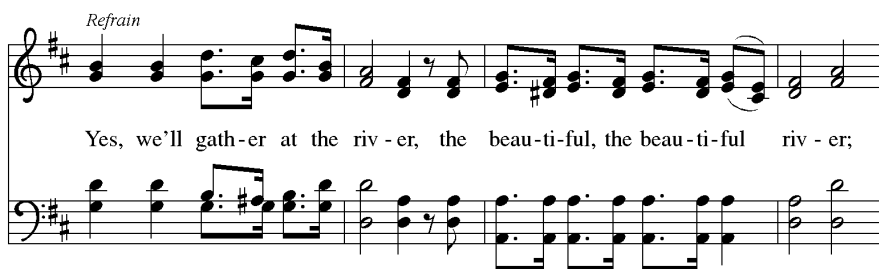
1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,  
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,  
3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;  
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv - er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

*Continued* ➤ ➤ ➤



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.

*When all have communed, please stand.*

### **Blessing after communion**

Pastor: the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **All: Amen.**

## Post-Communion Canticle



☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice 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

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. 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. **All: Amen.**

## Announcements

### Blessing

Pastor: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ☩ bless you and remain with you always.  
**All: Amen.**



## Sending Hymn: “God, Whose Almighty Word”

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.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the piano providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in four stanzas, each corresponding to a line of the hymn. The first stanza is the main body of the hymn, and the subsequent stanzas are variations or continuations of the theme. The score concludes with a final cadence in the piano part.

### Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace, love like Jesus.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

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**WELCOME** to Paradise! Right after our Gospel text ends today, in the next verses (not included), immediately after Jesus is baptized and called the Beloved, the Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness where he spends 40 days, is tempted by Satan, and is accompanied by angels. So, being baptized certainly doesn't mean a life of ease... but neither does it mean being alone when the Spirit sends us on our mission.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Janet Mansberger, Joyce Bentzel, Kay Brady, Sherry Feeser, Gloria Krebs; Kaleb Trump, Nancy and Jerry Frey-Markell, Ron Schwartz, Bob Markle, Samantha Zorbaugh, Gwen Schnetzka, Angie Zepp, Melissa Hipkiss, Erika Smith, Kim Culbert, Mark and Connie Keller, Heather Shoemaker, Judy Jarvis, Bernie Tucker, Sue Sell, Joe Pohlman, Linda Schreier, Connie McNeil, James Sanders, Christine Ruth Smith, Jen Miller

*For those in prison, especially Patrick and Keith*

*For those who mourn*

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God by Pastor and Susan McConnell in honor of their wedding anniversary (1/6).

### **NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP:**

- ✓ Large print bulletins are available in the binders in the narthex. We have one copy of each service in each of the four binders.
- ✓ Offering plates are located by the entrances. Please put your offering in before worship begins, as we will be bringing the offering forward to the altar during worship. (If you forget, there will be a plate still available at the back at the end of worship.)
- ✓ As you share the peace, you are welcome to move around and greet one another with Christ's peace with a sign, handshake, or hug.

✓ All the baptized are invited to receive Holy Communion. If we are communing by intinction, you will receive a wafer, which you can then dip in the wine. If we are communing with bread, you will receive a piece of bread from the pastor. Then proceed to pick up a cup, which a server will fill with wine. **Gluten-free wafers are always available from the pastor's communion station.**

✓ When you leave, please dispose of any trash with you. Bulletins may be taken with you or placed in the box either on the table shelf outside the office or in the narthex for recycling. Thank you!

**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE** meets in the fellowship room after the late worship service today.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** for the February issue is tomorrow, January 15.

**LAUNDRY LOVE:** Tuesday, January 16, starting at 5:30 p.m., at the laundromat in Spring Grove (Kennie's plaza). On duty: Dick, Darlene, and Kris.

**EVENING BIBLE STUDY** on the Ten Commandments on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. We will dig into a study on the role the Ten Commandments play in our personal and public lives as Christians, using a resource by Joan Chittester. This study was originally planned to go through February 13, but, given the study chosen, will extend through Lent, until March 12. You can attend in person or through Zoom (link will be emailed).

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY** soup and subs will be available on February 11. Sub order forms are available at each entrance.

**STAR WORDS:** At the Epiphany service, worshipers were given “star words.” These words are meant to provide a sort of intention for us over the year, a word to pay attention to through which God might be speaking to us. If you didn't receive a word, stars are available in the narthex. Take one for yourself, or to take to someone else!

**STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE:** Our stewardship of what God has given us goes much further than what we place in the offering plate. Next week, you'll have an opportunity to set intentions for growing as a steward of time, talent, and treasure this year. In preparation, think about how many hours a week you will offer to God's mission in service or prayer, how you will use the talents God has given you, and how you can manage your "stuff" to love like Jesus.

**HARVEST OF HOPE VOLUNTEERS:** If you would like to volunteer to serve at the Harvest of Hope food pantry, head to the Social Ministry bulletin board in the narthex. Take two copies of the sheets of dates volunteers are needed this year. Fill both out with the dates you're available-- keep one copy for yourself, put your name on the second one, and either give it to Linda Eisenhart or put it in the designated bin at the bulletin board.

**GIANT and WEIS CARDS** are available for purchase. See Pat Zech or Heidi Wolf. The church gets a portion of the total purchased.

**WEBSITE:** The **January** website is sponsored by *Dale and Barb Musser*, in memory of their parents Gordon and Helen Musser; Robert Zellers; and Rosella Buchmyer. Let Julie know if you'd like to sponsor a month in **2025**. Available: February, March, October, November, and December. Cost: \$20.