



## Evangelical Lutheran Church

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GUEST SPEAKER: Rev Rodney Schwab · GUEST ORGANIST: David Robertson · LIVESTREAM: Jeff Roback



## Baptism of Our Lord

*First Sunday after Epiphany*

*January 12, 2025*

**WELCOME TO GRACE!**

***We're glad you're here! Whether you are joining us for the first time or for the first time in a long time, we want you to know God's love in Jesus. We invite you to worship with us every week at 10:30 AM on Sundays; Children's Sunday School is at the same time downstairs.***

- *Two sets of restrooms are located downstairs; one just before entering the fellowship hall and another set down near the Sunday School rooms (just beyond the fellowship hall and past the kitchen).*
- *There are changing tables in the women's bathroom downstairs and in the "Cry Room" near the northside entryway.*
- *Children's busy bags are available by the entrance to worship. Parents needing to quiet small children are invited to use the "Cry Room" near the entryway.*

### **NEW SERIES— EPIPHANY MOMENTS**

"Epiphany" comes from a Greek word that means "reveal." When someone has an epiphany, it's not that reality changed. The way they see that reality is what changed, for a deeper truth has been revealed. An epiphany is an "a-ha!" moment causing us to look at things very differently.

In the Church Year, Epiphany is the season where we see Jesus begin his ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. In this season we will come to understand that when we have Jesus in our lives, it does not always mean our reality drastically changes. It simply means that we see reality differently (and better). Jesus always provides an abundance of epiphany moments.

## **TODAY'S THEME:** *BAPTISM IS THE CURE FOR AN IDENTITY CRISIS*

“Who is Jesus?” For the longest time, people thought the answer to that question was, “Mary and Joseph’s son” or “a carpenter from Nazareth.” While true enough, those answers do not adequately describe Jesus. But when Jesus was baptized, God the Father spoke, declaring Jesus true identity. Jesus was the dearly loved Son of God, chosen to be the Savior of the world.

“Who are you?” someone asks. Perhaps you would answer by providing your name. Maybe you would add additional information—where you are from or what you do for a living. Perhaps, in some dark corner of your mind, you would answer negatively. “I’m no one.”

We need to understand that none of those things *really* describes who we are. To answer that question—Who are you?—we must look to our baptism. Baptism is the cure for an identity crisis. There, just like he did with Jesus, our Father declares us to be his dearly loved child. Moreover, in baptism God anointed us with power for a life of selfless service. May God grant us this epiphany moment!

### **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

#### **OPENING HYMN: #709 [SUPPLEMENT] *"Christ, Your Footprints Through the Desert"***

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | Christ, your footprints through the desert<br>led to Jordan’s flowing stream;<br>there you heard the herald crying<br>Israel’s old, prophetic dream:<br>“He is coming! He is coming!<br>He will cleanse the earth with flame!<br>Sinners, plunge beneath the waters!<br>Wash away your guilt and shame!” | 3 | Son of God, the road from Jordan<br>led at last to Calv’ry’s hill.<br>There upon the cross forsaken,<br>you fulfilled the Father’s will.<br>Lamb of God, we see you dying,<br>sinless, yet for sinners slain.<br>But where death rose up to triumph,<br>you began your glorious reign!             |
| 2 | Christ, you heard the stirring summons<br>as by Jordan’s bank you stood;<br>bathed, though sinless, with your people<br>in the river’s cleansing flood.<br>High above, the heavens opened;<br>came the Spirit as a dove;<br>spoke a voice beyond all hearing:<br>“See my Son, the One I love!”           | 4 | God, in Baptism you have made us<br>one with Christ, our risen Lord,<br>freed us, claimed us, cleansed, forgiven<br>thro’ the water and the Word.<br>Help us hear your urgent summons,<br>calling us to serve you now.<br>Send us forth, your sons and daughters,<br>with the cross upon our brow. |

## INVOCATION

**M:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

♪ *Congregation sings: Amen.*

## CONFESSION

**M:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.

## LORD, HAVE MERCY, *Kyrie*

♪ *Congregation sings:*

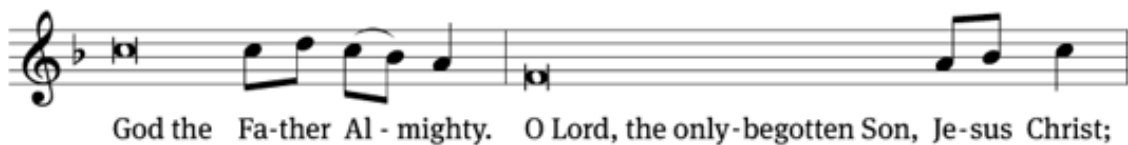
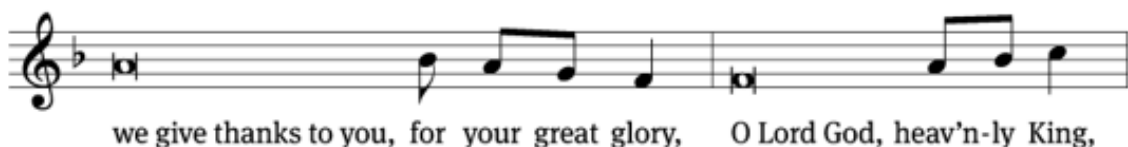
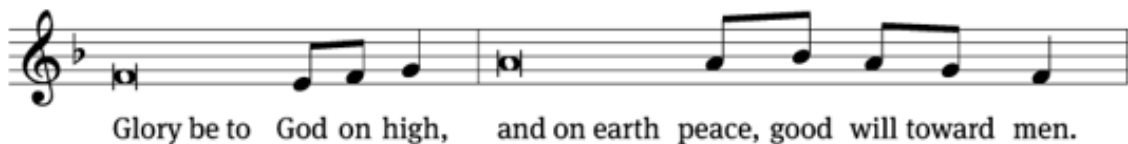
*Lord, have mercy on us.  
Christ, have mercy on us.  
Lord, have mercy on us.*

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

♪ *Congregation sings: Amen.*

**M:** In the peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord!

## GLORY BE TO GOD, *Gloria in Excelsis*



have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the

Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** The Lord be with you.

♪ *Congregation sings: And also with you.*

**M:** *Let us pray...* Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

♪ *Congregation sings: Amen.*

## + THE WORD +

**FIRST READING:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13 – *David was the youngest of eight brothers and a shepherd. Yet, at his anointing, the Lord declared his true identity—future king of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.” <sup>2</sup>But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.” The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.” <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?” <sup>5</sup>Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. <sup>6</sup>When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.” <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not

look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.”<sup>9</sup> Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.”<sup>10</sup> Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.”<sup>11</sup> So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”<sup>12</sup> So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”<sup>13</sup> So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 2, page 65 in the front of the RED hymnals


## Psalm 2

*Refrain*



Great are the works of the Lord. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! Great are the works of the Lord.

*Psalm tone*



Why do the nations <sup>´</sup>conspire\*  
and the peoples <sup>´</sup>plot in vain?

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers  
gather together <sup>´</sup>against the LORD\*  
and against his <sup>´</sup>Anointed One.

*Refrain*

→



**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22** – *People wondered if John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was a powerful preacher who lived a unique life. But at his baptism, Jesus was identified by his Father as the Anointed One.*

♪ *After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings: **Glory be to you, O Lord!***

<sup>15</sup>The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” <sup>21</sup>When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

♪ *The congregation sings: **Praise be to you, O Christ!***

**BAPTISMAL CONFESSION OF FAITH—** (CONGREGATION PARTS IN **BOLD**)

Holy Baptism is the priceless means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. Through it God takes away our sins and gives us new life. In it we reject the devil and confess that we believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?  
**Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?  
**Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?  
**Yes, 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.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**Yes, 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.**

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus, to value the Word and sacraments, and to live a life that pleases God?

**Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

May the eternal God, who saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: #89 "To Jordan's River Came Our Lord"**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 To Jordan's river came our Lord,<br>the Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,<br>the God from God, the Light from Light,<br>the Lord of glory, pow'r, and might. | 4 Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound<br>came God's own voice with words profound:<br>"This is my Son," was his decree,<br>"the one I love, who pleases me." |
| 2 The Savior came to be baptized—<br>the Son of God in flesh disguised—<br>to stand beneath the Father's will<br>and all his promises fulfill.                   | 5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight<br>anointed Christ in glorious sight<br>as God's own choice, from Adam's fall<br>to save the world and free us all.          |
| 3 As Jesus in the Jordan stood<br>and John baptized the Lamb of God,<br>the Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove,<br>descended on him from above.                          | 6 Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute!<br>This man is Christ, our substitute!<br>He was baptized in Jordan's stream,<br>proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.            |

**THE SERMON** (*Titus 3:4-7*) **"We're Different Because He Showed Up"**

1. Who we were. 2. Who God is. 3. Who we are now.

♪ *After the Sermon, the Congregation sings CREATE IN ME:*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

*Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

*Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.*



## GATHERING OF THE OFFERING:

PLEASE NOTE: Offerings may be given electronically through our website...  
GRACETECUMSEH.COM or by taking a picture of this QR code.  
THANK YOU for supporting the Lord's ministry here at Grace!



### GROW IN THE GRACE OF GIVING

When Samuel anointed David to be the future king of Israel, the Holy Spirit came on him in power. We know what David was able to accomplish as the Lord's anointed. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit at his baptism to carry out the plan of our salvation. He is both King and Priest who offered himself as the sacrifice for sin and now rules all things for his church. We have been anointed in our baptism, too, to be *royal priests* (1 Peter 2:9) whose purpose is to declare the praises of him who called us into his wonderful light. Let us use our resources of time and treasure to be the royal priests God has called us to be.

*(Reflection on the First Reading today – 1 Samuel 16:1-13)*



In our MISSION PRAYER today we pray for WELS Christian Aid and Relief

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH followed by the LORD'S PRAYER *(spoken together)*

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.

HYMN: #737 [SUPPLEMENT] *"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 God's own child, I gladly say it:<br>I am baptized into Christ!<br>He, because I could not pay it,<br>gave my full redemption price.<br>Do I need earth's treasures many?<br>I have one worth more than any<br>that brought me salvation free,<br>lasting to eternity! | 2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer:<br>I am baptized into Christ!<br>I have comfort even stronger:<br>Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.<br>Should a guilty conscience seize me<br>since my baptism did release me<br>in a dear forgiving flood,<br>sprinkling me with Jesus' blood? → |
| 3 Satan, hear this proclamation:<br>I am baptized into Christ!<br>Drop your ugly accusation,<br>I am not so soon enticed.<br>Now that to the font I've traveled,   | 4 Death, you cannot end my gladness:<br>I am baptized into Christ!<br>When I die, I leave all sadness<br>to inherit paradise!<br>Though I lie in dust and ashes<br>faith's assurance brightly flashes:<br>Baptism has the strength divine                                     |

all your might has come unraveled,  
and, against your tyranny,  
God, my Lord, unites with me!

5 There is nothing worth comparing  
to this lifelong comfort sure!  
Open-eyed my grave is staring:  
even there I'll sleep secure.  
Though my flesh awaits its raising,  
still my soul continues praising:  
I am baptized into Christ;  
I'm a child of paradise!

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### PRAYER *and* BLESSING

**M:** Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

♪ *Congregation sings: Amen.*

**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.

♪ *Congregation sings: Amen, Amen, Amen.*

### CLOSING HYMN: #299 "All Who Believe and Are Baptized"

1 All who believe and are baptized  
shall see the Lord's salvation;  
baptized into the death of Christ,  
they are a new creation;  
through Christ's redemption they shall stand  
among the glorious, heav'nly band  
of ev'ry tribe and nation.

2 With one accord, O God, we pray:  
grant us your Holy Spirit;  
help us in our infirmity  
through Jesus' blood and merit;  
grant us to grow in grace each day  
that by this sacrament we may  
eternal life inherit.

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

**SUNDAY (Jan 12)** – 8:45 AM - Pastor Finn conducts Worship at St. John's, Riga;

10:30 AM – WORSHIP & Children's Sunday School; *We will be watching the WELS Connection today.*

**MONDAY (Jan 13)** – 6:30 PM - Yoga Class (*meets in the narthex*)

**TUESDAY (Jan 14)** – 3:00 PM - Catechism Class

**THURSDAY (Jan 16)** – 6:30 PM - Adult Bible Class (*meets in the Auditorium*)

**NEXT SUNDAY (Jan 19)** – 8:45 AM - Pastor Finn conducts Worship at St. John's, Riga;

10:30 AM – WORSHIP w/HC & Children's Sunday School

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## **OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES: Sunday, Dec 29:** \$ 1,456.25

**Tithe.ly Online Offerings:** \$ 547.80 (12/27-12/30)

**Misc Donations (from St John's for bulletins):** \$ 127.08

**Misc Donations (NEW SOUND SYSTEM):** \$ 840.00

**TOTAL offerings received for the last week in 2024:** \$ 2,971.13

### **ACTUAL NUMBERS FOR DECEMBER & YEAR-END 2024:**

	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>TOTAL FOR 2024</u>
Offerings & Income	\$ 21,312.91	\$ 144,849.37
Less: Actual Expenses	<u>15,118.19</u>	<u>142,796.91</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 6,194.72	\$ 2,052.46
Checkbook balance at end of month – December 2024: \$ 18,389.19		

**OFFERING ENVELOPES: Sunday, Jan 5, 2025:** \$ 2,304.00

**Tithe.ly Online Offerings:** \$ 279.00 (1/1-1/8)

**Misc Donations (NEW SOUND SYSTEM):** \$ 60.00

**TOTAL offerings received this past week:** \$ 2,643.00



**TOTAL DONATIONS PUT ASIDE FOR NEW SOUND SYSTEM: \$ 2,926.83**

(INCLUDES \$78.83 IN TITHE.LY ONLINE OFFERINGS)

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES:** 2025 giving envelopes are available on the table in the entryway. If you do not see a box with your name on it let Pastor or Bonnie Finn (Church Secretary) know and we'll make one available to you as soon as possible. Thank you!

**GIVING REPORTS FOR 2024** will be mailed out by the end of January. If you need your report sooner, please talk to our Financial Secretary, Mike Rosenberg.

**SOUND SYSTEM UPDATE:** Thank you to everyone donating at church and online toward the purchase of a new sound system. Altogether we have received \$2,926.83. One sound company (Red Letter Sound) is sending out a final proposal to us soon, but the ballpark estimate is coming in at \$12,000. The Council will be meeting next week to consider how much of the cost could safely be taken from current funds to cover this cost, and how much more is needed in the way of special offerings. We are still pursuing other possible bids.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES NEXT WEEK:** Members of St John's & Grace are invited to Thursday evening Bible study next Thursday (Jan 16) at 6:30 PM. We continue our study of the Gospel of Matthew (This week: Ch.23). This section of Matthew contains Jesus' last words to His enemies. They are strong words. Yet even at the end Jesus still has compassion for His people, whom He longed to gather under His wings. "Desolate" is the word He uses to describe the House of Israel in that day. What about the state of our "religion" and our hearts? Do any of Jesus words in this chapter apply in any way to us today?

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR JAN 12:** "The King's Table" is the title of today's lesson. Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, suffered crippling injuries at age 5 while escaping Saul's enemies with his nurse. Once David established his kingdom, his thoughts turned to whether there were any survivors from Saul and Jonathan's line. Discovering Mephibosheth, David bestows on him Saul's land and fortune. Mephibosheth's family moves to Jerusalem, where he always eats at the king's table. Discuss how God provides for our daily needs today.

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