

Sunday, January 11, 2026
Baptism of Our Lord
230 Cemetery Road
P. O. Box 4
West Jefferson, Ohio 43162
614 879-8107
Jon Meister, Presider
www.zionlutheranwj.org

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim Good News to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOD MOMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Please stand as you are able.

P Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of Baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of Baptism into Christ.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in Baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of Baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

C **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the powers of this World that rebel against God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and Earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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.**



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through Word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the Earth?

C **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

P People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

C **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: *Spirit of Gentleness* (ELW 396)

Sing only verses 1, 3, and 4.

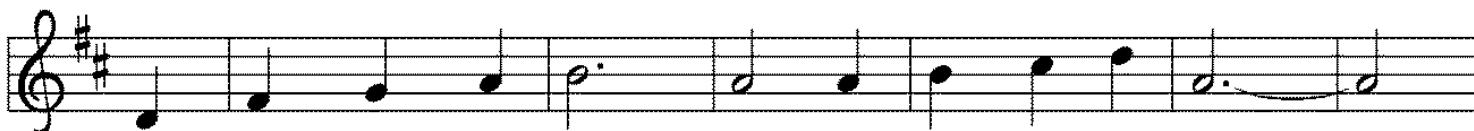
Spirit of Gentleness

Refrain

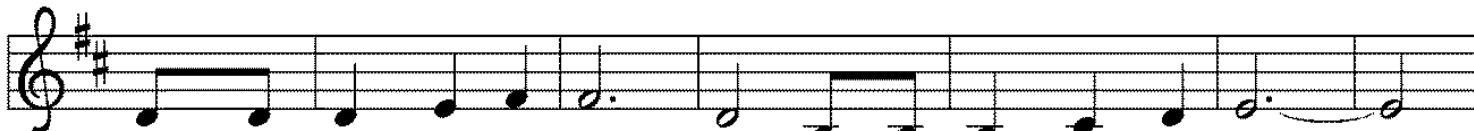
Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness

call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,

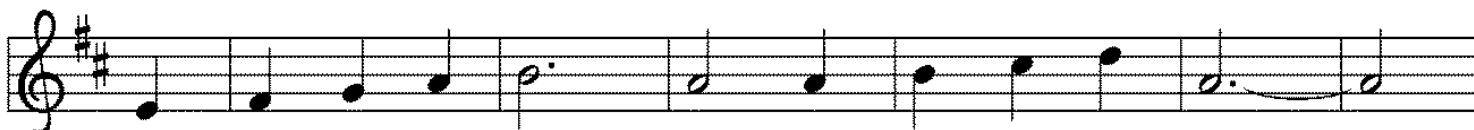
stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



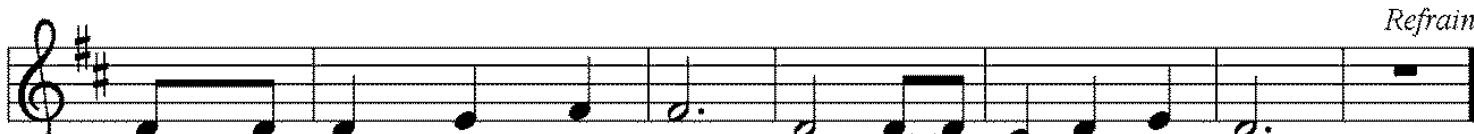
1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
 and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
 then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
 From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing;
 and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
 and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
 our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



Refrain
 "A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."
 then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
 when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
 With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo-ple a - rise.

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940

Music: SPIRIT, James K. Manley

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GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God our Father, at the Baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42: 1-9

Please be seated.

L A reading from Isaiah.

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled, the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break,

and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the Earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the Earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM: Psalm 29

Read responsively.

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his 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.

⁴The 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;

⁶he makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire; the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁸The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

⁹And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

¹¹The LORD shall give strength to his people; the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 16: 25-36

L A reading from Acts.

This passage demonstrates the power of faith and the impact it can have on others. Despite facing a difficult and seemingly hopeless situation like imprisonment, Paul and Silas chose to praise God. This act of worship not only strengthened their own faith and resilience, but it also had a profound effect on those around them. Through their actions, they were able to inspire the jailer to seek God and ultimately lead to his conversion and baptism.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ They answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

³⁵ When morning came, the magistrates sent the police, saying, “Let those men go.” ³⁶ And the jailer

reported the message to Paul, saying, "The magistrates sent word to let you go; therefore come out now and go in peace."

L The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand as you are able.

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

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

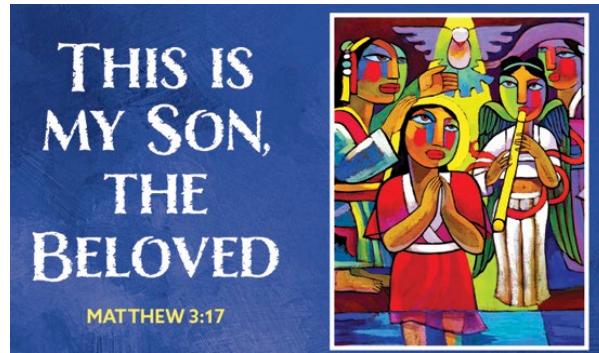
GOSPEL: Matthew 3: 13-17

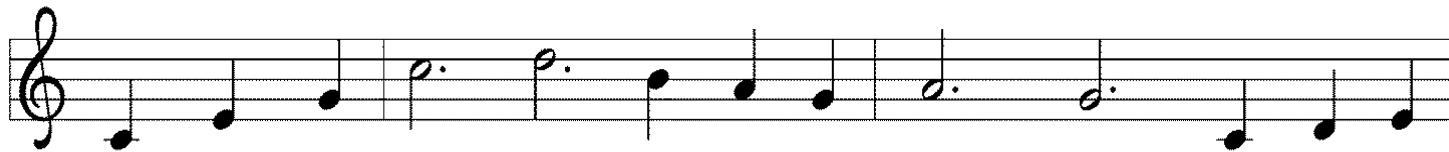
P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from Heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**



SERMON*Please be seated.***HYMN OF THE DAY: *Baptized in Water* (ELW 456)***Please stand as you are able.***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.

Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the Church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

A Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

A Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

A Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

A Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill, especially Niki and those we hold in our hearts. Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

A Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

P Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C **Amen.**

SHALOM

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Let us share the peace among one another.

PRAYER OF THANKS

Please stand as you are able.

P Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**



DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and places give thanks and praise to You, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the World. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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 birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light 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.

C **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

P In this service God has strengthened us through word and sacrament. Now therefore let us make visible the unity we share as we express a spirit of reconciliation. May our words and actions show that we are part of the one and only body of Jesus Christ, unified by faith, scattered for witness and service.

BLESSING

P May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

C **Amen.**

P May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

C **Amen.**

P May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

C **Amen.**

P And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the **☩** Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: *Wade in the Water* (ELW 459)

Sing only verses 1, 2, and 4

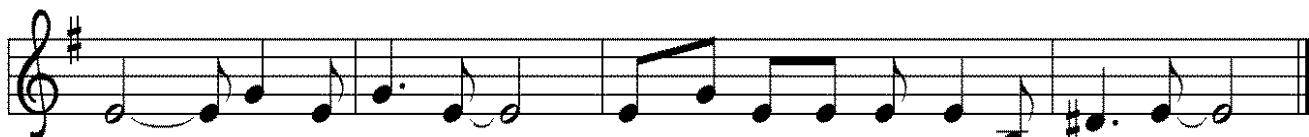
Wade in the Water

Refrain

All



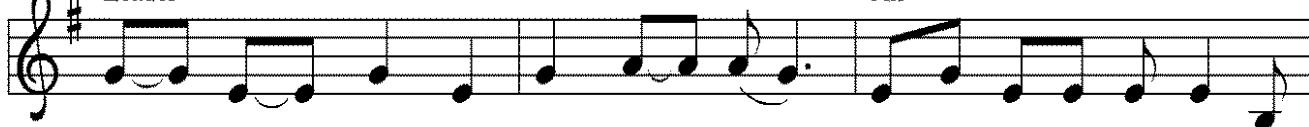
Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,



wade in the wa - ter, God's a-goin'-a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader

All



- 1 See that host all dressed in white,
- 2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a-goin'-a trou - ble the
- 3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
- 4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader



wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.
 looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led.
 the Ho - ly Ghost a - com-ing on me.
 just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

Refrain

God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - - ter.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WADE IN THE WATER, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C **Thanks be to God. *We go out - Reaching in for the Holy Spirit, Reaching up for God's Grace, Reaching out with Christ's Love.* Amen.** (The words in italics are Zion's mission statement.)

POSTLUDE

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Serving during worship this morning:

Presider: Jon Meister

Musician(s): Jerry Gossett

Food fund donations:

Serving during worship next week:

Presider: Jon Meister

Musician(s): Jerry Gossett

Food fund donations:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome our guests and visitors this morning. Please take a moment to speak with Jon, Jerry, or Louise before you leave. All Baptized persons, at Christ's invitation, are welcome to commune.

JANUARY 6TH is the first day of Epiphany. It will be Epiphany until February 18th.

JANUARY 19TH is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We will recognize that day on the 18th

FEBRUARY 8TH will be Souper Bowl Sunday. Dig out your football gear and wear your favorite team's colors. My team colors have changed I think, but I cannot wear Steelers colors.

FEBRUARY 18TH is Ash Wednesday. Easter will be a little early this year. It also means that Transfiguration Sunday will be the 15th.