

# *The Baptism of our Lord*

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**Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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## 601 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.

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*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father, **C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** Amen.

## **Introit**

Behold, the Lord, the Ruler, hath come:  
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in His hand.

Give the king Thy judgments, O God:  
and Thy righteousness unto the King's Son.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Behold, the Lord, the Ruler, hath come:  
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in His hand.

## **Kyrie**

*LSB 186*

**☩ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*LSB 187*

**☩ Glory be to God on high: ☩ and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And with thy spirit.**

**☩ Let us pray: O God, our heavenly Father, whose voice was heard at the Baptism of Thine only-begotten Son, declaring Him to be the One with whom Thou art well-pleased : pour down Thy Holy Ghost upon Thy faithful people,**

that we may rejoice in this same sonship that we have received from Thee through our Baptism into Christ; who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the same Holy Ghost : ever one God, world without end. **C Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 42:1-7*

<sup>1</sup> Behold 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. <sup>2</sup> He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street <sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. <sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

<sup>5</sup> Thus 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 on it and spirit to those who walk in it: <sup>6</sup> I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, <sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **Epistle**

*1 Corinthians 1:26–31*

<sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

<sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **Alleluia**

*LSB 190*

**C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

### **Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 3:13–17*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

**☩ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.

<sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup>and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

**☩ This is the Gospel of the Lord. ☩ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed**

**☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

## 406 To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord

- 1 To Jordan came the Christ, our Lord, To do His Father's pleasure;  
Baptized by John, the Father's Word Was given us to treasure.  
This heav'nly washing now shall be A cleansing from transgression  
And by His blood and agony Release from death's oppression.  
A new life now awaits us.
- 2 O hear and mark the message well, For God Himself has spoken.  
Let faith, not doubt, among us dwell And so receive this token.  
Our Lord here with His Word endows Pure water, freely flowing.  
God's Holy Spirit here avows Our kinship while bestowing  
The Baptism of His blessing.
- 3 These truths on Jordan's banks were shown By mighty word and wonder.  
The Father's voice from heav'n came down, Which we do well to ponder:  
"This man is My belovèd Son, In whom My heart has pleasure.  
Him you must hear, and Him alone, And trust in fullest measure  
The word that He has spoken."
- 4 There stood the Son of God in love, His grace to us extending;  
The Holy Spirit like a dove Upon the scene descending;  
The triune God assuring us, With promises compelling,  
That in our Baptism He will thus Among us find a dwelling  
To comfort and sustain us.
- 5 To His disciples spoke the Lord, "Go out to ev'ry nation,  
And bring to them the living Word And this My invitation:  
Let ev'ryone abandon sin And come in true contrition  
To be baptized and thereby win Full pardon and remission  
And heav'nly bliss inherit."
- 6 But woe to those who cast aside This grace so freely given;  
They shall in sin and shame abide And to despair be driven.  
For born in sin, their works must fail, Their striving saves them never;  
Their pious acts do not avail, And they are lost forever,  
Eternal death their portion.

7 All that the mortal eye beholds Is water as we pour it.  
Before the eye of faith unfolds The pow'r of Jesus' merit.  
For here it sees the crimson flood To all our ills bring healing;  
The wonders of His precious blood The love of God revealing,  
Assuring His own pardon.

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## Sermon

### Offertory

*LSB 192*

**☩** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

### [ Offering ]

### Prayer of the Church

#### Preface

*LSB 194*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**☩** And with thy spirit.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**☩** We lift them up unto the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**☩** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for at His Baptism Your voice from heaven revealed Him as Your beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him, confirming Him to be the Christ. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus

*LSB 195*

**☩** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 196*

**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.**

**The Words of Our Lord**

*LSB 197*

**¶** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Pax Domini**

*LSB 197*

**¶** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **☩ Amen.**

**Agnus Dei**

*LSB 198*

**☩** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

**Distribution**

#### **404 Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered**

- 1 Jesus, once with sinners numbered, Had no blemish of His own;  
In the waters of the Jordan His true worth and work were shown:  
Heaven opened and the Spirit There descended like a dove,  
As the Father's voice resounded, "Hear My Son, the One I love."
- 2 John confessed Him as the Savior— "Look, the sinless Lamb of God!"  
Yet he dared not loose the sandals Of the One God's love had shod.  
Oh, how fair the feet of Jesus, Bringing news of peace to us,  
Christ, the herald of salvation, Preaching mercy from the cross:
- 3 This the baptism that our Savior Greatly longed to undergo;  
This the crimson cleansing needed So the world God's love might know;  
This the mission of Messiah As He stepped from Jordan's stream,  
He, the chosen and anointed Son of God, sent to redeem.
- 4 Jesus, once with sinners numbered, Full obedience was Your path;  
You, by death, have consecrated Water in this saving bath:  
Dying to the sin of Adam, Rising to a life of grace;  
We are counted with the righteous, Over us the cross You trace.

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#### **596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized**

- 1 All Christians who have been baptized, Who know the God of heaven,  
And in whose daily life is prized The name of Christ once given:  
Consider now what God has done,  
The gifts He gives to ev'ryone Baptized into Christ Jesus!
- 2 You were before your day of birth, Indeed, from your conception,  
Condemned and lost with all the earth, None good, without exception.  
For like your parents' flesh and blood,  
Turned inward from the highest good, You constantly denied Him.
- 3 But all of that was washed away— Immersed and drowned forever.  
The water of your Baptism day Restored again whatever  
Old Adam and his sin destroyed  
And all our sinful selves employed According to our nature.

- 4 In Baptism we now put on Christ— Our shame is fully covered  
With all that He once sacrificed And freely for us suffered.  
For here the flood of His own blood  
Now makes us holy, right, and good Before our heav'nly Father.
- 5 O Christian, firmly hold this gift And give God thanks forever!  
It gives the power to uplift In all that you endeavor.  
When nothing else revives your soul,  
Your Baptism stands and makes you whole  
And then in death completes you.
- 6 So use it well! You are made new— In Christ a new creation!  
As faithful Christians, live and do Within your own vocation,  
Until that day when you possess  
His glorious robe of righteousness Bestowed on you forever!

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#### **544 O Love, How Deep**

- 1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
Beyond all thought and fantasy,  
That God, the Son of God, should take  
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!
- 2 He sent no angel to our race,  
Of higher or of lower place,  
But wore the robe of human frame,  
And to this world Himself He came.
- 3 For us baptized, for us He bore  
His holy fast and hungered sore;  
For us temptation sharp He knew;  
For us the tempter overthrew.
- 4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;  
For us His daily works He wrought,  
By words and signs and actions thus  
Still seeking not Himself but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,  
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
He bore the shameful cross and death;  
For us He gave His dying breath.

6 For us He rose from death again;  
For us He went on high to reign;  
For us He sent His Spirit here  
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

△7 All glory to our Lord and God  
For love so deep, so high, so broad;  
The Trinity whom we adore  
Forever and forevermore.

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#### **438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth**

1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,  
The guilt of sinners bearing  
And, laden with the sins of earth,  
None else the burden sharing;  
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,  
To slaughter led without complaint,  
That spotless life to offer,  
He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,  
The mockery, and yet replies,  
“All this I gladly suffer.”

2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul’s great friend,  
The Lamb of God, our Savior,  
Whom God the Father chose to send  
To gain for us His favor.  
“Go forth, My Son,” the Father said,  
“And free My children from their dread  
Of guilt and condemnation.  
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,  
But by Your passion they will share  
The fruit of Your salvation.”

3 “Yes, Father, yes, most willingly  
I’ll bear what You command Me.  
My will conforms to Your decree,  
I’ll do what You have asked Me.”  
O wondrous Love, what have You done!  
The Father offers up His Son,  
Desiring our salvation.  
O Love, how strong You are to save!  
You lay the One into the grave  
Who built the earth’s foundation.

4 Lord, when Your glory I shall see  
And taste Your kingdom’s pleasure,  
Your blood my royal robe shall be,  
My joy beyond all measure!  
When I appear before Your throne,  
Your righteousness shall be my crown;  
With these I need not hide me.  
And there, in garments richly wrought,  
As Your own bride shall we be brought  
To stand in joy beside You.

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## **Nunc Dimittis**

*LSB 199*

**☐** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## **Thanksgiving**

*LSB 200*

**☐** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**☐** and His mercy endureth forever.

**☐** Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith

toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

### **Benedicamus**

*LSB 202*

**P** Bless we the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **Benediction**

*LSB 202*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

**C** Amen, amen, amen.

### **594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It**

- 1 God's own child, I gladly say it:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
He, because I could not pay it,  
Gave my full redemption price.  
Do I need earth's treasures many?  
I have one worth more than any  
That brought me salvation free  
Lasting to eternity!
  
- 2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
I have comfort even stronger:  
Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.  
Should a guilty conscience seize me  
Since my Baptism did release me  
In a dear forgiving flood,  
Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?

- 3 Satan, hear this proclamation:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
Drop your ugly accusation,  
I am not so soon enticed.  
Now that to the font I've traveled,  
All your might has come unraveled,  
And, against your tyranny,  
God, my Lord, unites with me!
- 4 Death, you cannot end my gladness:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
When I die, I leave all sadness  
To inherit paradise!  
Though I lie in dust and ashes  
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:  
Baptism has the strength divine  
To make life immortal mine.
- 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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## THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

In His Baptism, Jesus Takes His Place with Sinners – Our Lord Jesus is baptized “*to fulfill all righteousness*” (Matthew 3:13–17). He partakes of a baptism for sinners in order that He might be our substitute and bear the judgment we deserve. In the water, Jesus trades places with us. Our sin becomes His sin. His righteousness becomes our righteousness. Our glory, therefore, is in “*Christ Jesus, who became to us . . . righteousness and sanctification and redemption*” (1 Corinthians 1:26–31). Jesus is the “*chosen*” One sent from the Father to release us from the prison house of sin and death (Isaiah 42:1–7). Baptized into Christ, we also become the chosen ones, beloved of the Father. We cross the Jordan with Jesus (Joshua 3) through death into the promised land of new life with God.

Jesus was baptized by John as a sign of the nature and goal of his messianic ministry. The Spirit's descent and the Father's voice proclaimed him God's true and perfect Son and the Servant of the Lord, who has come not only for Israel, but also for the Gentiles. In the unit that follows immediately (4:1-11), the Spirit leads Jesus into the desert to reveal that Jesus' ministry of perfect, obedient Sonship in the place of Israel means conflict with the great enemy, Satan himself.

– Jeffrey A. Gibbs, *Matthew 1:1-11:1*, (CPH:2006), p. 186