THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

The First Sunday after the Epiphany



JANUARY 7, 2024 LEBANON LUTHERAN CHURCH Lebanon Church, VA The congregation assembles in silence. Silent prayer is offered upon entering the pews.

Announcement of the Day

Stand



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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PREPARATION

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

■ In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.



Exhortation

Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3-4; Luke 18:13

- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Silence for confession of individual sins and meditation upon God's Word.

Confession of Sins

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Absolution

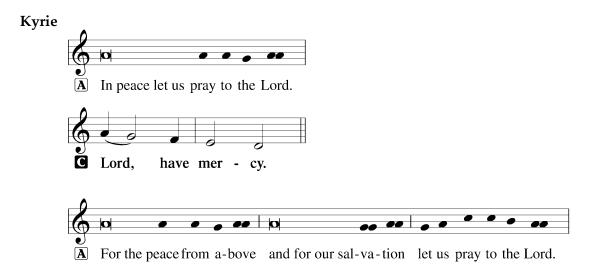
[John 20:19–23]

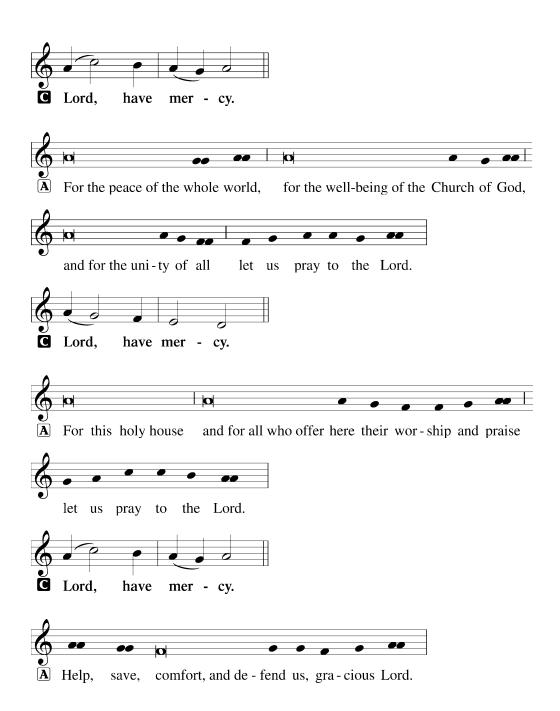
- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Apostolic Greeting

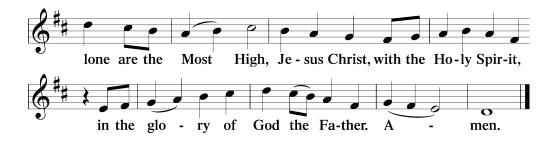
The grace of our Lord
 → Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.











Salutation and Collect of the Day



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

A The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 42. 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. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. 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: "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, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85

Psalm

Antiphon: Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,* that glory may dwell | in our land.

LORD, you were favorable | to your land;* you restored the fortunes of | Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your | people;* you covered | all their sin.

You withdrew | all your wrath;* you turned from your hot | anger.

Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,* and put away your indignation | toward us!
Will you be angry with us for- | ever?* Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?
Will you not revive | us again,* that your people may re- | joice in you?
Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,* and grant us your sal- | vation.
Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,* for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,* that glory may dwell | in our land.

Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet;*
 righteousness and peace kiss each | other.
Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,*
 and righteousness looks down | from the sky.
Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*

and our land will yield its | increase. Righteousness will go be- | fore him* and make his foot- | steps a way.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Antiphon: Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,* that glory may dwell | in our land.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

A The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 1.

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. 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; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand



Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:13–17

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



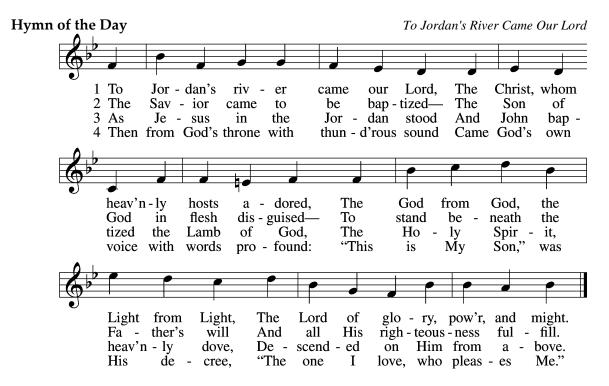
Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when 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; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Stand



- 5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight
 Anointed Christ in glorious sight
 As God's own choice, from Adam's fall
 To save the world and free us all.
- Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;
 This man is Christ, our substitute!
 He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
 Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

Nicene Creed

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.

> We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten 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 from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.

The congregation is seated for the Installation of the Council.

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Those to be installed are presented before the altar. The pastor addresses the congregation:

Address

Introduction

The pastor addresses the officers-elect:

Questioning

The pastor addresses the congregation:

P Beloved in the Lord, you have heard the promises of faithfulness spoken by these men and women whom you have selected to serve as officers of Lebanon Lutheran Church. Do you promise to support them in their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them to the best of the abilities that God has given you, so that He may be glorified and His work be done in our midst? If so, then answer: We do.



We do.

The pastor addresses the officers-elect:

Installation

Collect

Blessing

When the Council members have returned to the pews, we stand for the Prayer of the Church.

Prayer of the Church

Sit

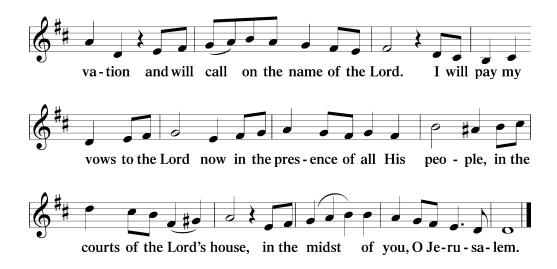
SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Baptized and repentant sinners who accept our doctrine, are not under church discipline, and who confess with us that the body and blood of the Lord are distributed and received with the bread and wine of the Sacrament are welcome to commune at this altar. Those who are not yet Baptized or who are unsure of their confession of faith may come forward for a blessing; approach the steps with arms crossed over chest to receive a blessing.

Offering

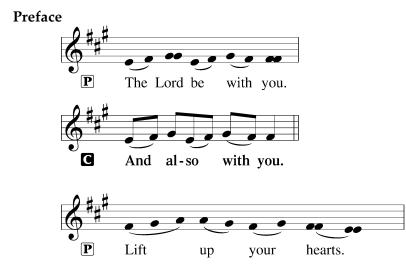
When the Offering has been received and the altar prepared, we stand for the Offertory.

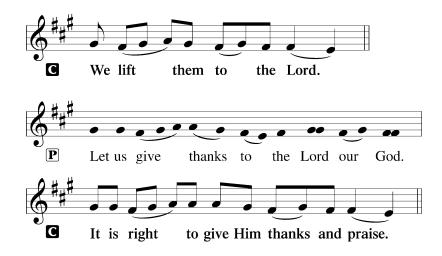




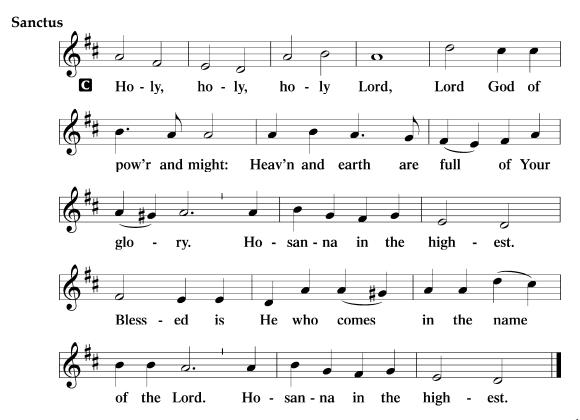
Offertory Prayer

- **A** Merciful Father,
- **C** We offer with joy and thanksgiving, what You have first given us: our selves, our time, and our possessions – signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him Who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.





Proper Preface



Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

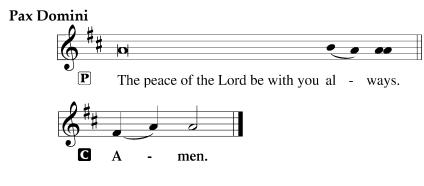
As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.



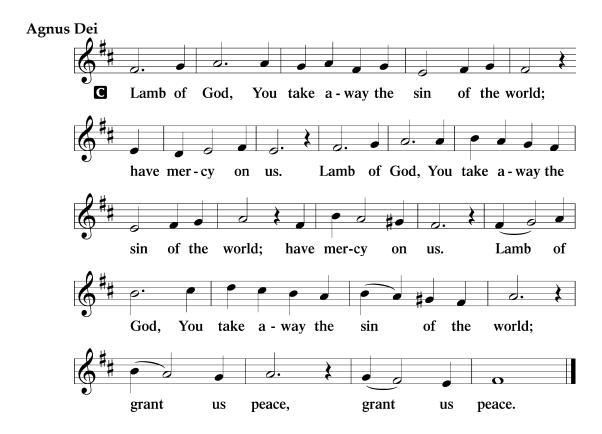
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father



Sit



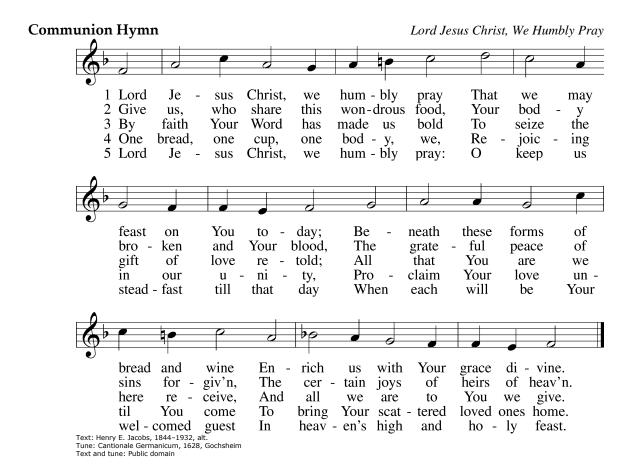
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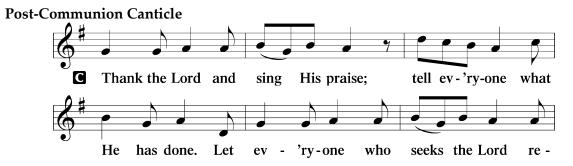
Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629-1701

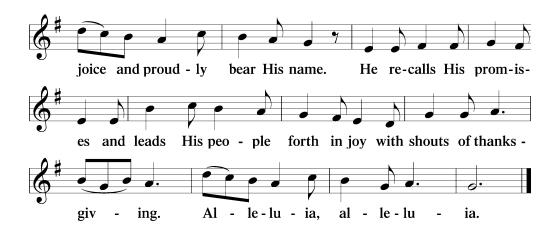
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When all have communed the altar is made ready, we stand for the Post-Communion Blessing.

Post-Communion Blessing





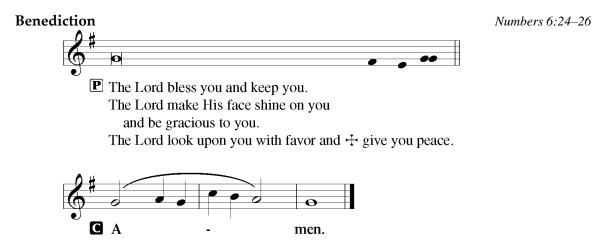
Post-Communion Collect

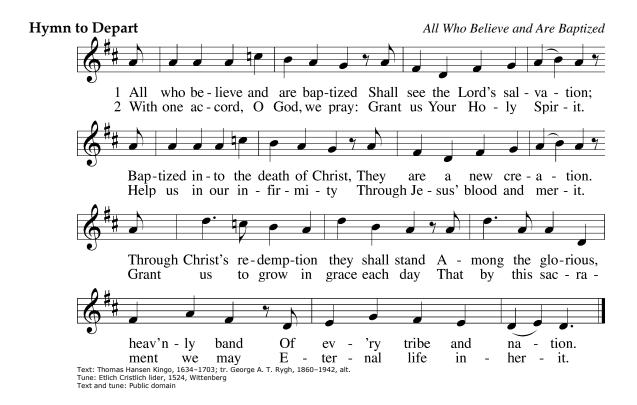
A Let us pray.

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.



Amen.





Announcements and Dismissal

Acknowledgments

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Prayer Requests

Rev. Bill White, Fran Reidy, Steve Lowe, Margaret Daley, John Marshall, Mary Artz, Ruth Rickard, Kathryn Flynn, George and Rose Beauchesne, J.J. Peterson and family, Orville, for laborers for the Lord's Vineyard, for the Lutheran Church in the Valley, for vision for the stewardship of property, for a full-time pianist, for the restoration of civil peace in Ukraine and Israel.

Congregational Budget Information

Needed each week: \$3,173.71. Noisy Offering Collection for 12/31: \$142.11

This Week

- Monday ZOOM Ephesians Study, 10am.
- Tuesday Service at The Maynard, 11am.
- Wednesday Matins 8:15am, Confession 10am, Midweek Holy Communion 1:30pm, Vespers 5:30pm, Deacon Training Program 7pm ZOOM (Candidates should already have link in their email).
- Thursday Outreach Meeting 6pm, Choir Practice 7pm, Council Meeting 7pm.

Looking Ahead

Pastor will attend the NALC Pastors' Conference from 1/15 – 1/19.



PARISH INFORMATION

540-465-5456

lebanonlutheranchurch.org 10120 Middle Rd., Lebanon Church, VA 22641 Pastor Porter (mobile): 248-794-2263