

+DIVINE SERVICE II+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD+ 09 JANUARY 2022



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgsicms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Leon Tarr, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

*The entire service, including the **rubrics** of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.*

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you. **To all of you who are visiting** our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. **If you are looking for a church home** and would like to know about our beliefs and practice, please see the pastor. He will be happy to visit with you at your convenience.

A Note From the Organist:

Buxtehude was Danish-born, but spent the bulk of his career at St. Mary's Church in Lubek, a free city in Germany. This chorale prelude follows his common pattern of an ornamented melody against a chordal accompaniment.

Wayne Wold recently retired from Hood College in Maryland. He also served as music director at Camp David. He has many published works to his credit. His setting of "I Want to Walk" is cheerful and dance-like.

All Who Believe And Are Baptized

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

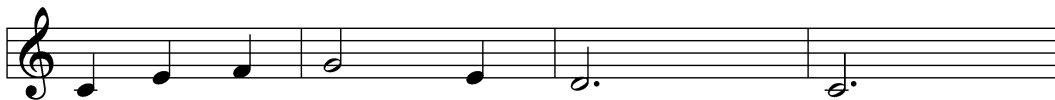
Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Stand

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

Invocation

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

Exhortation

LSB 167

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 167

- P** 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.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 89:1, 26-28; antiphon: Liturgical Text; Psalm 89:20

Behold the Lord, the rul- | er, has come,*
 and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in his hand.
I have found David, my | servant;*
with my holy oil I have a- | nointed him.
 I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, for- | ever;*
 with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all gener- | ations.
He shall cry to me, "You are my | Father,*
my God, and the Rock of my sal- | vation."
 And I will make him the | firstborn,*
 the highest of the kings | of the earth.
My steadfast love I will keep for him for- | ever,*
and my covenant will stand | firm for him.
Glorify 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.
 Behold the Lord, the rul- | er, has come,*
 and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in his hand.
I have found David, my | servant;*
with my holy oil I have a- | nointed him.

Kyrie

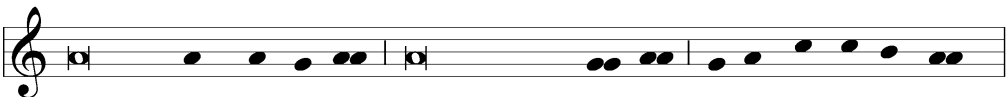
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.




C Lord, have mer - cy.




A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



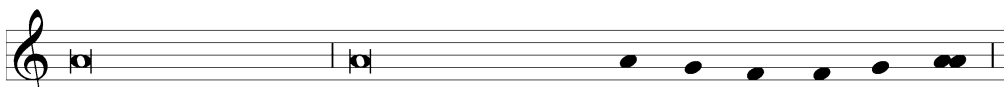
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,




and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.




C Lord, have mer - cy.



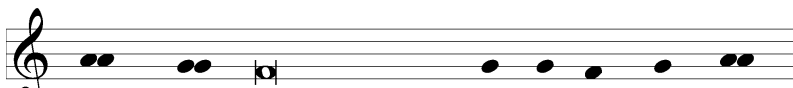
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise




let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast

LSB 171



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

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.

C A - men.

Sit



Old Testament Reading

Joshua 3:1-3, 7-8, 13-17

¹Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. ²At the end of three days the officers went through the camp ³and commanded the people, "As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it. . . .

⁷The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. ⁸And as for you, command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, 'When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'" . . .

¹³"And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap."

¹⁴So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, ¹⁵and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), ¹⁶the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 72:18-19

**Blessèd be the LORD, the God of | Israel,*
who alone does | wondrous things.**

Blessèd be his glorious name for- | ever;*

may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and | Amen!

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the

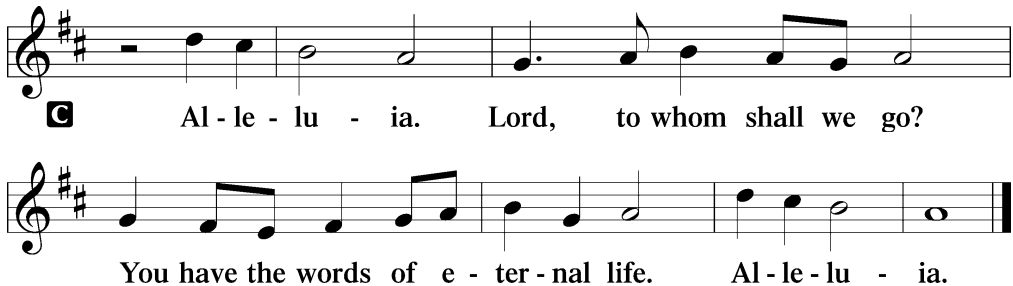
world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, 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 thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And 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; ¹⁷and 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.



Nicene Creed

C 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.

Hymn of the Day

405 To Jordan's River Came Our Lord



1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, The Christ, whom
2 The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized— The Son of
3 As Je - sus in the Jor - dan stood And John bap -
4 Then from God's throne with thun - d'rous sound Came God's own



heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, The God from God, the
God in flesh dis - guised— To stand be - neath the
tized the Lamb of God, The Ho - ly Spir - it,
voice with words pro - found: "This is My Son," was



Light from Light, The Lord of glo - ry, pow'r, and might.
Fa - ther's will And all His righ - teous - ness ful - fill.
heav'n - ly dove, De - scend - ed on Him from a - bove.
His de - cree, "The one I love, who pleas - es Me."

- 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.

- 6 Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;
This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

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Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Prayer of the Church

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.

The proper response is "Lord, have mercy."

- P** For all those baptized into Christ's righteousness, made bold in faith and fervent in love, that we may live out heavenly lives even in this world, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** That we who have died to this world in Holy Baptism would ever more and more live in the resurrected life of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all who proclaim Jesus Christ, that through their godly message, many would repent of their sins and join Him in His heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For the family, especially all Christian homes; for husbands and wives, that God would turn them toward one another in love; for fathers and mothers, that God would equip them for their holy duty as teachers of the faith; and for all children, that God would preserve them in the saving faith and certain promises of their Baptism unto life everlasting, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all who have been called children of God in Holy Baptism, that they would serve the Lord with fear and always seek refuge in the kingdom of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For the rulers of the nations, especially *Joe*, that they would submit to the preaching of God's Word and acknowledge Jesus as true Christ and true king, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all those bruised and afflicted in spirit, *Alice, Carmen, Cynthia, the Conrad's, Dalton, David, Debra, Faith, Gloria, James, Jamesetta, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marie, Mary, Marion and her family, Philip, Royce, Sabrina, Steve, and Susie*, that Christ would be a servant to them in their hour of need and bring them out of their afflictions, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all who have received Holy Baptism, that they would treasure this heavenly gift and so receive the body and blood of Christ for their forgiveness, life and salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, You manifested Yourself with the Holy Spirit in the fullness of grace at the Baptism of Your dear Son. With Your voice, You directed us to the One who has borne our sins, that we may receive grace and forgiveness. Keep us, we implore You, in the true faith. Since we have been baptized in accordance with Your command and the example of Your Son, strengthen our faith by Your Holy Spirit and lead us to everlasting life and salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Offertory

LSB 176



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 177



P The Lord be with you.

C And al-so 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 Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 177

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

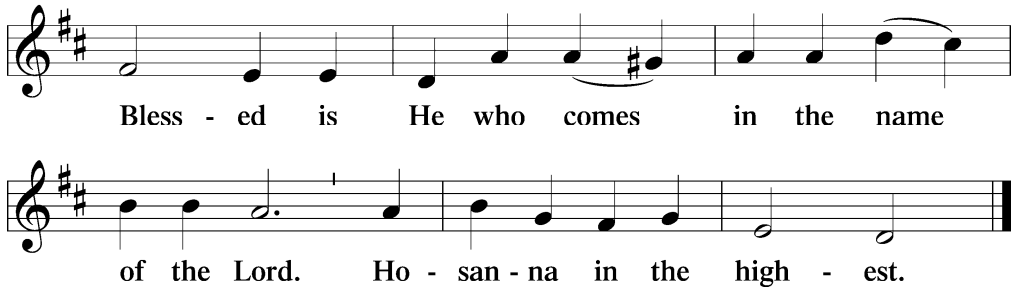
Sanctus

LSB 178

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



The Words of Our Lord

P 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."

Proclamation of Christ

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

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P 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:

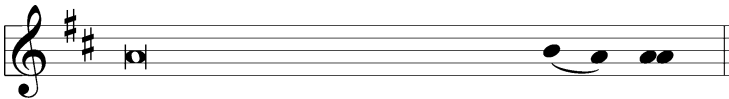
Lord's Prayer

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.

Pax Domini

LSB 180



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



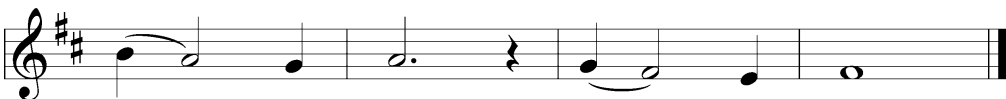
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



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.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized



1 All who be-lieve and are bap-tized Shall see the Lord's sal - va - tion;
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Ho - ly Spir - it.



Bap-tized in - to the death of Christ, They are a new cre - a - tion.
Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it.



Through Christ's re-demp-tion they shall stand A - mong the glo-rious,
Grant us to grow in grace each day That by this sac - ra -



heav'n - ly band Of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.
ment we may E - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.
His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 181



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what



He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -



joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re - calls His prom - is -



es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -



giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

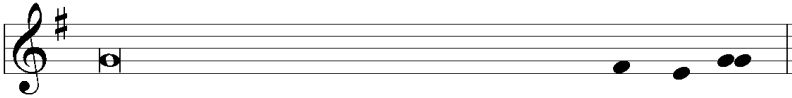
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 183



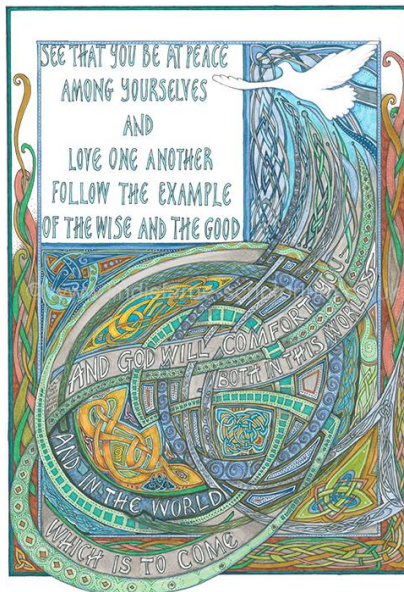
P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



C A - men.



Hymn to Depart

394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
2 Man - i - fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak-ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest;
Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo - rious sign;
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
Thou by all wilt be con - fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

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I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light

Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)

Acknowledgments

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✠ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✠

Announcements

+ Last Sunday's Attendance: 25
Epiphany Attendance: 15

+ Thank you for providing the beautiful poinsettias for Christmas! If you purchased one, please feel free to take yours home!

+ We will be removing decorations on Sunday, January 9th, following Epiphany. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated!

Synod Sentences for the Baptism of Our Lord

In His Baptism, Jesus Takes His Place with Sinners

Our Lord Jesus is baptized "*to fulfill all righteousness*" (Matt. 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 Cor. 1:26–31). Jesus is the "*chosen*" One sent from the Father to release us from the prison house of sin and death (Is. 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.

A Prayer for the Week

Lord God, heavenly Father, in mercy You have established the Christian home among us: We beseech You so to rule and direct our hearts, that we may be good examples to children and those subject to us, and not offend them by word or deed, but faithfully teach them to love Your Church and hear Your blessed Word. Give them Your Spirit and grace, that this seed may bring forth good fruit, so that our homelife may advance Your glory, honor and praise, our own improvement and welfare, and give offense to no one; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

A Snippet From 1517

The Hebrew Stories Swimming Beneath Jesus's Baptism

Matthew's account of Jesus's baptism is only 5 verses and about 100 Greek words long, but multiple Hebrew stories are swimming right below the surface.

We sense when there's "a thing behind a thing." We eye the surface, but something suggests to us a deeper reality. So what do we do? We ask some probing questions. We read between the lines. We scratch at the uppermost layer to see what lurks underneath. In other words, we're searching for the subsurface, "the thing behind the thing."

My favorite word for this sort of discovery is "palimpsest." In the old days, when scrolls were used for writing, they were expensive and hard to obtain. So, scrolls were often reused. The old ink would be scraped off and something new written on top (sort of like modern tattoo coverups, but more obvious). If you looked hard enough, however, you could still read the faint original writing underneath the new ink, still stained on the skin of the scroll (here are some examples). These recycled scrolls are called palimpsests (lit. "re-scraped" pages).

The story of the baptism of Jesus is a kind of palimpsest. There's a "thing behind the thing" in this story. Matthew's account is only 5 verses and about 100 Greek words long (3:13-17), but multiple Hebrew stories faintly ink its subsurface. Or, to change the metaphor, they are swimming right below the watery surface of Jesus's baptism. The following examples are only a sampling (I develop more of them in this article).

The Jordan and Liminality

You don't read far into the Bible before you realize God is huge on geography. He doesn't just, willy-nilly, make things happen in random places. He's spatially specific.

This is our first "thing behind the thing" at Jesus's baptism: it happens at the Jordan. In fact, it is *divinely imperative* that it happen at this river. If Jesus were baptized in any other body of water, it would have jacked up the entire story.

Why? The Jordan is the liminal place for Israel—the location of leaving the past behind and stepping into the future. In this river the ark of the covenant, carried by priests, dams up the rushing waters (Josh. 3-4). Here, the nation leaves behind the killing wilderness with old Moses for the vivifying land with new Joshua (just as earlier they left behind slavery in Egypt and entered liberation by crossing the Red Sea). These are some of the "old texts" beneath this palimpsest, over which Matthew pens his new story.

Jesus comes to bring us out of the dry and barren past, into the future of a new and living hope. He is the ark of the covenant, the incarnate throne of God, in front of whom John the priest now ministers in his camel's hair vestment. Jesus is the new Joshua (his Hebrew name) who brings us into the promised kingdom of his Father, flowing with the milk of mercy and the honey of life. When Jesus is baptized, all these narrative flow together to become a new story, pulsing with ancient blood.

The Prophet Team

God is not only huge on geography; he's also deeply committed to biography. He's very specific about who does certain doings. And the doer here is John. He must be. It's *divinely imperative* that John alone baptizes Jesus, *not* the other way round, as John suggests. That would have altered the long-established pattern of prophetic teamwork.

How so? John is the second Elijah (Matt. 17:12). He's about done with his life's labor. He has been a voice in the wilderness, preparing the way for the Lord. And now his time of departure is near at hand. The first Elijah, when he was likewise done with his labor, passed on his mantle to Elisha on the banks of the Jordan River (2 Kings 2). At the Jordan three prophetic handoffs occur:

--Joshua took over after the death of Moses

--Elisha took over after the charioting away of Elijah

--Jesus will take over from John at this selfsame Jordan.

Jesus tells John it is fitting "for us to fulfill all righteousness." Note: "us" not "me." Both were necessary: John to baptize and Jesus to be baptized. They were, in a sense, a prophetic team—John preparing the way for him who is the Way itself.

Feathers, Arks, and Open Heavens

One more "thing behind the thing" in this story takes us all the way back to Noah—indeed to the very dawn of creation. Three images merge: a man in the water, the heavens opening, and a dove appearing. This triad occurs also in Genesis 6-9, the flood account. Noah is the man in the water, floating in the ark. He's there because God "opened the heavens" to rain down the flood (Gen. 7:11). And the signal that the waters had begun to dry up was a dove that returned to Noah with an olive leaf in its beak. This was the sign that Noah, his family, and the animals—like a new Adam and Eve in Eden—could soon disembark upon a fresh creation.

The flood story is the creation story retold.

Now here stands Jesus, the man in the water, come to give in full what Noah's father wrongly thought his son would give, namely, "rest" (Gen. 5:29). Over this new Noah, the heavens also open, but rather than raining down a destructive flood, the Father pours forth speech, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased" (Matt. 3:17). And a new Dove alights upon the one who is the anointed of God, the Messiah—anointed not with oil from olives but with the Spirit of God: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and strength, of knowledge and the fear of the Lord (Isa. 11:2). As Noah was a kind of new Adam, so Jesus is a new Noah and new Adam combo, baptized in the water of creation, over which the Spirit once hovered (Gen. 1:2), to bring about new creation for all those who are baptized into the ark of his body, the church (1 Pet. 3:21).

Conclusion: Betwixt and Between

Marching beneath the surface of those 100 Greek words about Jesus's baptism are Adam, Noah, Moses, Joshua, Elijah, and Elisha. Flying betwixt and between the nouns and verbs are the feathered messengers of old. The text is still warm from the fires of the chariot that swooped down to pick up the prophet. And one can carry an ark of the covenant, on dry ground, between the textual lines.

There is more than one "thing behind the thing" in Jesus's baptism: there's a whole world. We call it the Old Testament. And all its major parts join hands in Matthew 3 to dance in circles and sing Hallelujahs around the story that fulfills them all. *Chad Bird, 2020*