



Baptism of our Lord Worship Gathering

January 12, 2025

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www.LCRonline.org

Ministers, People of LCR

Pastor, The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe

Vicar John Evans

Music Director, Ms. Xiaojing Chang

A Welcoming Community Making Christ Known Through Worship and Service

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

- ♦ **Breathe**
- ♦ **Ponder:** Whom did you bring with you on your heart today? For what or whom are you feeling thankful? What is making you anxious today? What do you need to confess today?
- ♦ **Be still,** empty your hands, empty your mind, let sounds pass you, wait upon God.

Gathering

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Congregational responses are indented and in bold.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.

We ignore the needs of our neighbors;

we resist your call to oppose injustice;

we give in to scarcity and fear;

we assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways.

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

In Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

Shall We Gather at the River



- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv - er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap-py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father, With joy and awe we praise you for claiming us as your sons and daughters,
and for pouring your Holy Spirit upon us. Help us to prepare this earth for your glory, and shine your
light on all your faithful children, for the sake of the one whose birth and baptism brought renewal and
transformation to this world, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Word

PSALM: Psalm 51:6-17

**6You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

**7Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

**⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

**¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.**

¹⁴Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

**¹⁵O LORD, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.**

¹⁶For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

**17The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-22

A Reading from Luke the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Word of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: **Hear our prayer.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Meal

OFFERING *The giving of our time, talents, and money to the work of Christ's Church is an act of worship. As God has blessed us, let us return thanks to Him.*

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... and join their unending hymn:

LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the Body and Blood of Christ as he comes to us in the Holy Eucharist.

Grape juice is also provided for those who prefer it.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.

Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

Amen.

Sending

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

Amen.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER LIST

Grieving

The Burkhardt/Reilly Family

Strength

The Eckhart Family

Arlene Engle

Jane Newman

Harriet Sandberg

Barbara Stadelberger

Glenn Vegezzi

Vivian Vogel

Sally White

Christa Zago

Ron

Serving in the Armed Forces

Bryan Bennett

Timothy DelUniversita

Carmen Green

Jim Oliveto

Justin Ortega

Jesse Fritz

Mission Partner

Sion Lutheran Bayamon, PR