



January 9, 2022 8:30 am

Baptism of Our Lord

As the prophets foretold, 'They shall name him Emmanuel, which means, God is with us.' (Matthew 1:23) Yet Jesus comes among us not only as "God with us" but as one of us, in every respect. He enters fully into human experience. He says that his baptism by John fulfills God's righteousness in him just as he calls for the fulfillment of God's righteousness in all people. Today, we embrace our own baptismal heritage as people claimed by God, washed in the water of life and sent forth for the sake of the world.



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PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Seek Ye First”

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things
Shall be added unto you
Allelu alleluia

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah, his family, and the animals survive the flood. Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this sacrament. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all your beloved creation.

Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin that is within us and drown the evil that surrounds us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SONG OF CELEBRATION

**1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?**

Refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

**2 On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. **Refrain****

"Shall We Gather at the River" #423

**3 Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. **Refrain****

**4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. **Refrain****

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The love and affection of the angels, the love and affection of the saints,
the love and affection of heaven, and the blessing of God Almighty be with you.

And also with you.

Creating God, in the waters of baptism you claim us as your own. Help us each day to renew and refresh ourselves in the water of life. Set us free to live as your people and to proclaim in all the world the gift of life that is your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

ISAIAH 42:1-9

Here 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. ² He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵ 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 upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ I 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, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸ I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

And the Word was with God. **And the Word was God.**

PSALM 29

PSALM ANTIphon

W.P. Sterneman III



A - le - lu - ia a - le - lu - ia!
Un - to us a
sav - ior is born!

¹ Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. ² Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor. **Antiphon**

³ The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. ⁴ The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. **Antiphon**

⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. **Antiphon**

⁷ The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. ⁸ The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. ⁹ The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!" **Antiphon**

¹⁰ The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

¹¹ May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace! **Antiphon**

ACTS 10:34-43

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

And the Word was with God. **And the Word was God.**

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Open My Eyes That I May See"

5 O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me;

9 place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un-clasp and set me free.

13 Si - lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y my God, thy will to see.

O - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

MATTHEW 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And 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. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

TIME OF REFLECTION

SONG OF THE DAY

"Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized" #304

1 Christ, when for us you were baptized, God's Spirit on you came, as peaceful as a dove, and yet as urgent as a flame, as urgent as a flame.	4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord; your cross on us be signed, that likewise in God's service we may perfect freedom find, may perfect freedom find.
2 God called you, "My beloved Son"; you are God's servant true, sent to proclaim the reign of heav'n, God's holy will to do, God's holy will to do.	

PROFESSION OF FAITH FOR THE MODERN WORLD

We believe in God,

The Creator of all that is,

All that has been,

And all that will be;

We believe in the Living Christ,

The embodiment of God in our world

Come to create a world of Love and Compassion:

The Fellowship of God's New World

Residing within us all;

Who sacrificed his life for the sake of this world,

His body broken and risen again,

Who continues to live today through his teachings

And the works of all—the Body of Christ—

Who strive to live by those teachings

And who work to carry out that mission;

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

The breath of life and creation,

Carrying God's love throughout the world;

We believe in the Grace of God,

The blessing of love and peace,

Given freely with no qualifications, restrictions, or requirements

To all of God's creation and to all the Peoples of this world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Arise, Shine!"

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, in wisdom you provide every gift needed to build up your people and your church. By the power of your Spirit, you continually call us to ministry in your name. The light of your Christ shines like a star, guiding us in the way and truth that leads to life in you.

In gratitude, we offer our gifts to support the mission and ministry of this congregation, and of the church at large in the wider world. May they be signs of our whole lives committed to share your goodness and grace with a world in need. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

W.P.Sterneman III



The grace of God be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift up our hearts to God.**

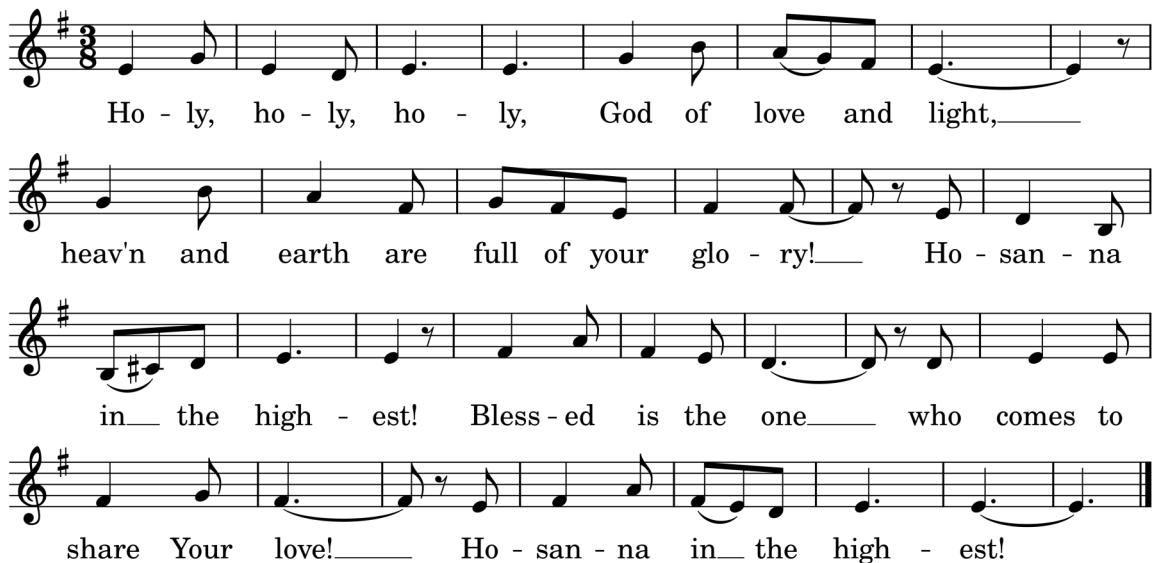
Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give thanks and praise**

This block contains three staves of musical notation in G major, 3/8 time. The first staff has a bass clef, the second has a treble clef, and the third has a bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes, with bold text for the doxology.

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

W.P. Sterneman III



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God of love and light, _____

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry! _____ Ho - san - na

in the high - est! Bless - ed is the one _____ who comes to

share Your love! _____ Ho - san - na in the high - est!

This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major, 3/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some lines continuing onto the next line.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 ever. Amen.**

INVITATION

All are welcome to celebrate communion at Abiding Love. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. Take a cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white) from the tray. Children and adults not communing are welcome to receive a blessing. Please follow the direction of the ushers.

COMMUNION SONG

"Christ, You Give Us Living Water"

- 1 Christ, You give us living water,
Quenching thirst of tongue and heart.
Teach us how to share that water,
Show us how to do our part.
As you knelt with cloth and basin,
wash away our cares and pride;
Help us serve each other gladly,
working freely, side by side.**
- 2 Baptized once with pure, fresh water,
Freed from sin and called by grace,
We who claim the sign as Christians
Stand as partners in one place.
Water is the entrance symbol,
Sealing what God's love began,
Calling us from death to living
In obedience to God's plan.**
- 3 Now in bread and wine you offer
Life that does not fear to die.
Are we ready now to follow
Without asking where or why?
When we share the bread and chalice,
Serving neighbors near at hand,
Christ can stretch our vision outward
To the church in every land.**
- 4 So may we, as Christ's disciples
Men and women, old and young
Give the world life-giving water,
Quenching thirst of heart and tongue:
Thus to build a church of service
Set on Christ, the cornerstone;
Christ, the servant; Christ, the partner;
Christ, the model; Christ alone!**

Come to the table of mercy,
prepared with the wine and the bread.
All who are hungry and thirsty,
Come, and your souls will be fed.
Come at the Lord's invitation;
Receive from his nail-scarred hand.
Eat of the bread of salvation;
Drink of the blood of the Lamb.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of life and all creation, you prepare a table for us in the midst of the world and bid us come. In the gift of this Sacrament, you reveal your Christ present with us, nurturing us and strengthening us for the days ahead.

Help us to live in the light of Christ. Help us to walk in the way and the truth he reveals. Lead us forth into the world, blessed to share the gift of your love and grace and forgiveness. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

"Where the Waters of the Jordan"

1 Where the waters of the Jordan
Wend their way through desert land,
Jesus came in humble freedom
To be baptized at John's hand.
Then there came a voice from heaven,
And the spirit like a dove,
"This is my beloved servant
Come to reign in suff'ring love!"

3 Near the lake as day was dawning
Someone called them, "Eat with me";
So they brought their fish and joined him,
Breaking bread beside the sea;
Then they knew their risen Savior,
Charging them with ministry,
"If you want to be my people,
Feed my sheep and follow me."

**4 Jesus, we would be your people,
Called and baptized, born anew,
Drinking of one living Spirit,
Given many tasks to do.
We are frail, yet you sustain us
As we seek your word and way,
Bearing springs of living waters,
Hid in vessels made of clay.**

PROCLAIMING OUR MISSION AND SHARING GOD'S PEACE

We go forth together, **sharing God's love!**

TRAVELING MERCIES Sung together

**Go in peace, live in grace
Trust in the arms that will hold you
Go in peace, live in grace
Trust God's love**

POSTLUDE

Setting and Safety Measures UPDATE

Abiding Love will continue to hold on-site worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am every Sunday. To protect your fellow worshippers, we **strongly** encourage masking, social distance, and frequent hand-washing and sanitizing, especially for those who are not vaccinated. Those not worshipping in person may join us via livestream, available at abidinglove.org.

Godly Play classes will not meet onsite Sunday mornings through January. Links to a Godly Play story and song will be in the Saturday email and at abidinglove.org.

Submerge will not meet onsite Sunday mornings through January. They will meet via Zoom on 1/16 and 1/30.

Confirmation and High School students will not meet onsite Sunday mornings through January but will meet via Zoom.

Adult Forum and Bible Boosters will meet as scheduled. Other Abiding Love and community groups will meet as scheduled, observing these same health and safety protocols.

The Abiding Love staff and council will continue to monitor and adjust what we do and communicate updates as quickly as possible. We wish all the best for everyone this new year and encourage all to worship and gather in a way you feel comfortable and safe.

SERVING SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022

Flowers in the worship space today are given to the glory of God, in honor of Becky Matthys' birthday by Karin and Lloyd Matthys.

Preaching and Presiding Minister: Pastor Brad Highum

Altar Guild: (8:30) Di Brophy, Greta Rymal (11:00) Barbara Tiedt, Anna Jones

Assisting Minister: (8:30) Kurt Lowe

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Diane McGowan (11:00) Garth Hilman

Lector: (8:30) Audrey Lehman (11:00) Joyce Flachmeier

Music Leaders: Gus Sterneman, Stephanie Morrison, Mixed Blessings

Ushers: (8:30) Karin and Lloyd Matthys (11:00) Kurt Armstrong, Steve Essinger

Sound: George Glaser Tech: Karl Sterneman

ABIDING LOVE CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)

9:45 am Faith Formation

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

11:00 am ALLC Food Pantry

5:00 pm Bread For All Food Pantry

7:00 pm AA (Music Room)

7:00 pm Scout Troop 555 (Activity Center)

7:00 pm Children's Outreach Ministries

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

10:30 am Tuesday Bible Study (Sanctuary)

7:00 pm Al-Anon (Music Room)

7:00 pm Ministry Round Table (Zoom)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

9:00 am Naomi (Classroom)

10:00 am Staff Meeting (Classroom)

6:00 pm Music Rehearsals (Music Room)

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

10:00 am Quilters (UC)

10:30 am Chapel (Sanctuary)

6:30 pm Lion's club (Classroom)

6:30 pm Stress Coping (Middle School Rm)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

5:30 pm GS Troop 44630 (Activity Center)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)

9:45 am Faith Formation