

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and

RENEWAL OF THE **HOLY SPIRIT...**



Sunday, January 12, 2025
First Sunday after Epiphany

Service Theme

BAPTISM IS THE CURE FOR AN IDENTITY CRISIS

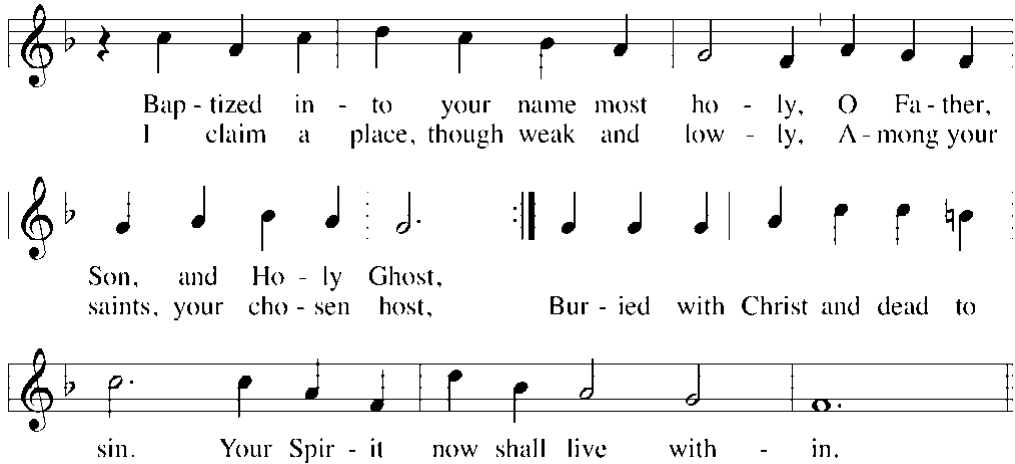
“Who is Jesus?” For the longest time, people thought the answer to that question was Joseph’s son. But when Jesus was baptized, God the Father spoke, declaring Jesus true identity. Jesus was the dearly loved Son of God, chosen to be the Savior of the world. “Who are you?” someone asks. Perhaps you would answer by providing your name. Maybe you would add additional information—where you are from or what you do for a living. Perhaps, in some dark corner of your mind, you would answer negatively. “I’m no one.” We need to understand that none of those things really describes who we are. To answer that question—Who are you?—we must look to our baptism. Baptism is the cure for an identity crisis. There, just like he did with Jesus, our Father declares us to be his dearly loved child. Moreover, in baptism God anointed us with power for a life of selfless service. May God grant us this epiphany moment!

Order of Service

Baptism Gathering Rite / Service of the Word

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) Amen.



Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther,
I claim a place, though weak and low - ly, A - mong your
Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
saints, your cho - sen host, Bur - ied with Christ and dead to
sin. Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

M: I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

C: Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. *(John 3:5,6)*

M: Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us. *(Psalm 51:5)*

C: But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. *(1 Corinthians 6:11)*



My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me To be hence-
My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me The fruit of



forth your child and heir.
all your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it, com - fort



me When threat - 'ning clouds a - round I see.

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; Your pro - mise
Oh, cast me not a - way for - ev - er If words and



sure - ly will en - dure.
deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I come de -



filed: For - give, lift up, re - store your child.

M: Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (*Ephesians 5:25-27*). Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) Amen.

All that I am and love most dear - ly— Re - ceive it
Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly, And help me
all, O Lord, from me.
your own child to be! Let noth - ing that I am or
own Serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

1st Lesson

1 Samuel 16:1–13 (EHV)

David was the youngest of eight brothers and a shepherd. Yet, at his anointing, the Lord declared his true identity—future king of Israel.

¹The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I see a king for myself among his sons.”

²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”

The Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will let you know what you are to do. You are to anoint for me the person that I point out to you.”

⁴So Samuel did what the Lord had told him to do and went to Bethlehem. Trembling with fear, the elders of the city came to meet him. They said, “Do you come in peace?”

⁵He said, “Yes, in peace. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” He consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they had come, he looked at Eliab and said, “Certainly this is the Lord's anointed.”

⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at how tall he is, because I have rejected him. For the Lord does not look at things the way man does. For man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.”

⁹Then Jesse had Shammah pass by. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.”

¹⁰Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel. Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.”

¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Is that all of the young men?”

Jesse said, “There still is the youngest, but he is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said to Jesse, “Send for him, for we cannot sit down to eat until he comes.”

¹²He sent for him and brought him in. David had red hair and striking eyes, and was good-looking. The Lord said, “Get up! Anoint him, because this is the one.”

¹³So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers. The Spirit of the Lord rushed on David with power from that day forward. After that Samuel set out and returned to Ramah.

Psalm 2a

Refrain



You are my Son; this day have I be - got - ten you.

Tone



Why do the / nations rage?

Why do the peoples / plot in vain?

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers assemble
a- / gainst the Lord

and against his A- / nointed One. *Refrain*

He who sits in / heaven laughs;

the Lord / scoffs at them.

Then he addresses them in his anger and frightens them with
his fury, / saying,

“I have set my King on Zion, my / holy hill.” *Refrain*

I will declare the / Lord’s decree:

He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have be- / gotten
you.”

**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. Refrain**

Text: translation

Tune: Thomas Pavlechko

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Second Lesson

Titus 3:4–8 (EHV)

In the eyes of the world, baptism appears to be just a religious ceremony. St. Paul explains baptism is so much more—a second birth that gives you the identity of God’s child and heir.

⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, ⁵he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life.

⁸This saying is trustworthy. And I want you to insist on these things, so that those who believe in God are intent on keeping busy with good works. These things are honorable and useful for the people.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia, alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased. Alleluia. (Mark 1:11)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:15–17, 21–22 (EHV)

People wondered if John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was a powerful preacher who lived a unique life. But at his baptism, Jesus was identified by his Father as the Anointed One.

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

²¹When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. While he was praying, heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you.”



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

377 To Jordan's River Came Our Lord CW 377



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 prom - is - es 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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 Tune: Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, Hamburg, 1690, alt.
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Sermon Text & Theme

Titus 3:1 (EHV)

God's Renewing Shower of Grace

- 1) Washed you from your past
- 2) Cleansed you for your future
- 3) Purified you for your present

Remembrance of Baptism

Holy Baptism is the priceless means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. The apostle Paul wrote: "All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Again Paul wrote: "All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

In Holy Baptism, God takes away our sins and gives us new life. We reject the devil and confess that we believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

**Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus, to value the Word and sacraments, and to live a life that pleases God?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

May the eternal God, who saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you to everlasting life.

Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Lord's Prayer Expanded

I invite you to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me the Lord's Prayer as Christ our Lord taught us.

First, we pray that God our Father in heaven would look with mercy on all his children on earth. We ask him to give us grace that we might proclaim his Word faithfully and live our lives according to his will, for then we show that his name is precious to us. We also pray that he would keep us from any teaching and living which would dishonor his name.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

We pray that his kingdom and the rule of his grace might come to us and grow in us each day; that all who are still captives in Satan's kingdom might be brought to know Jesus Christ, his Son, so that the Christian Church might grow and prosper.

Your kingdom come.

We pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen us to do and accept God's will in life and death, in good times and in bad, and that we might have power to put down our own sinful will and its desires.

Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

We pray that our Father would also give us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish desires, and help us to trust that he will provide for all our needs.

Give us today our daily bread.

We ask that God would forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may rest and rejoice in a good conscience before him, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

We pray that God would protect us from all temptations and help us by his Spirit to put down our sinful flesh, to despise the world and its vices, and to overcome the devil and all his trickery.

Lead us not into temptation.

And finally, we pray that God would deliver us from all evils of body and soul now and forever.

But deliver us from evil.

All those who sincerely desire these things will say from their hearts “Amen,” trusting without doubt that their prayers are answered in heaven, as Christ has promised: “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Loving Father, lead us to rejoice every day as we remember our baptism. When we sin against you and others, give us power to put down the sinful nature that was drowned in the water of baptism. When we doubt your love, cause us to remember the promises you made when we came to the font. When we feel weak, invigorate us with the hope of eternal life that awaits all who are baptized and believe in you.

Keep in your care all our brothers and sisters who are suffering in sickness, enduring hardship, carrying a cross, or mourning the death of someone they love. Let them also return to their baptism and remember the blessings you bestowed on them through the water and the Word. Keep all the baptized in your care and bring us at last to the river of the water of life in heaven.

Amen.

Blessing

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

679 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

CW 679



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap - tized
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap - tized
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap - tized
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness: I am bap - tized
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing to this life - long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it, gave my
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er: Je - sus'
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion, I am
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness to in -
 com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing: e - ven



full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's trea - sures man - y?
 cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y con - science seize me
 not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the font I've trav - eled,
 her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in dust and ash - es
 there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a - waits its rais - ing,



I have one worth more than an - y that brought me sal -
 since my bap - tism did re - lease me in a dear for -
 all your might has come un - rav - eled, and, a - gainst your
 faith's as - sur - ance bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
 still my soul con - tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free, last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
 giv - ing flood, sprink - ling me with Je - sus' blood?
 tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
 strength di - vine to make life im - mor - tal mine.
 in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

Text: tr. Robert E. Voelker, b. 1957; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756

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Church Cleaners

January 19 – Simon // January 26 – Matthew

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (12) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class

10:30 am Worship with Communion

11:30 am Fellowship

12:00 pm Divine Sisters

We (15) 4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)

Th (16) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)

6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (17) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study

4:30 pm Confirmation (D)

Su (19) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class

10:30 am Worship with Communion

11:30 am Fellowship

12:00 pm Evangelism

3:00 pm **Worship in Poltimore**

Tu (21) 7:00 pm Elder's Meeting

We (22) 4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)

Th (23) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)

6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (24) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study

4:30 pm Confirmation (D)

6:00 pm Friday Fellowship

Su (26) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class

10:30 am Worship with Communion

11:30 am Fellowship

Acknowledgments

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