

Divine Service  
for the  
**Feast of the  
Baptism  
of Our  
Lord**

10:00 a.m.

January 11, A.D. 2026



## Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- *Missouri Synod* ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA

(413)568-1417

Website: [www.stjohnswestfield.org](http://www.stjohnswestfield.org) YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@stjohnswestfield](https://www.youtube.com/@stjohnswestfield)

E-mail: [info@stjohnswestfield.org](mailto:info@stjohnswestfield.org)

**Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM on WHYN 560 AM**

Rev. David Riley, Senior Pastor  
125 Glenwood Drive, Westfield, MA 01085  
Cell phone # 870-814-4828  
E-mail: [srpastor@stjohnswestfield.org](mailto:srpastor@stjohnswestfield.org)

Rev. Jeffrey Windoloski, Associate Pastor  
Cell phone # 260-445-5320  
E-mail: [associatepastor@stjohnswestfield.org](mailto:associatepastor@stjohnswestfield.org)

## **WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD and SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST!**

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 594: "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"



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,  
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er:  
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,  
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness  
 com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:



Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's  
 Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y  
 I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the  
 To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in  
 E - ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -



tre - sures man - y? I have one worth  
 con - science seize me Since my Bap - tism  
 font I've trav - eled, All your might has  
 dust and ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance  
 waits its rais - ing, Still my soul con -



more than an - y That brought me sal -  
 did re - lease me In a dear for -  
 come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your  
 bright ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the  
 tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!  
 giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling 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!

† CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

† INTROIT

P: Behold my servant, whom | I uphold,\*  
my chosen, in whom my | soul delights.

I will tell of | the decree:\*

The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you.

C: **Ask of me, and I will make the nations your | heritage,\*  
and the ends of the earth your pos- | session.**

P: You shall break them with a | rod of iron\*  
and dash them in pieces like a potter's | vessel."

C: **Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;\***  
**be warned, O rulers | of the earth.**

P: Serve the | Lord with fear,\*  
and rejoice with | trembling,

C: **for his wrath is quickly | kindled.\***

**Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in him.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

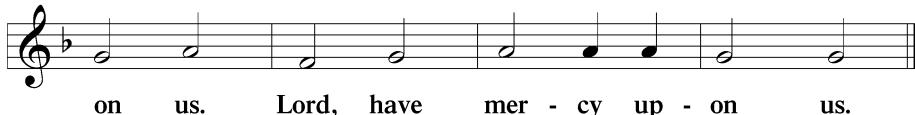
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

P: Behold my servant, whom | I uphold,\*  
my chosen, in whom my | soul delights.

† KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

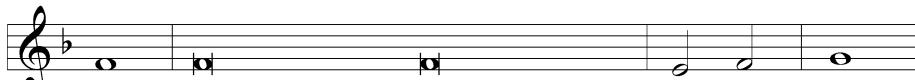


on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

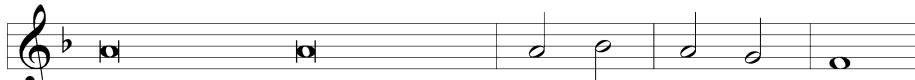
† GLORIA IN EXCLESIS



P Glory be to God on high: C and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



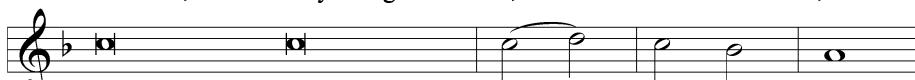
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



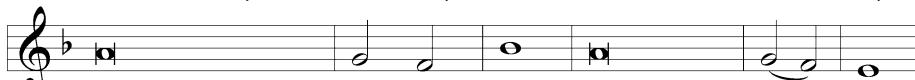
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

† SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit - it.

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.

A - men.

*(Be Seated)*

❖ OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

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. I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

† GRADUAL: **Praise the LORD, all | nations!**

**Extol him, all | peoples!**

**For great is his steadfast | love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.**

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;  
bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!**

† EPISTLE READING: Romans 6:1–11 (We are created to walk in newness of life in Christ.)

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that 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.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**(Please Stand)**

† GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

† HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13–17

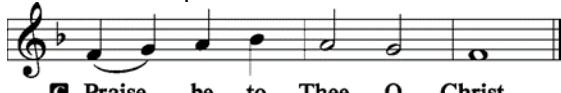
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

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.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

† GOSPEL RECESSIONAL

† STATEMENT of FAITH: Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

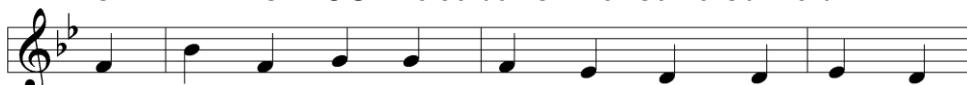
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven 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.

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.

(Be Seated)

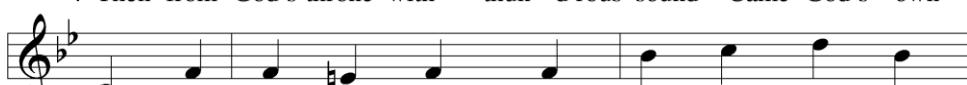
† CHILDREN'S SERMON

† SERMON HYMN NO. 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."



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.

† SERMON: "Journey to the Jordan" Matthew 3:13-17

† CHOIR ANTHEM: "Gentle Spirit, Dwell with Me" Jay Althouse

*(Please Stand)*

† OFFERTORY



The musical notation consists of five staves of music in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with the first line starting with a bass note and the subsequent lines continuing on the soprano line. The lyrics are as follows:

C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Heavenly Father, You have revealed Your Son to us in the wondrous Epiphany in the Jordan. So also You have revealed Your name and blessing to us in Holy Baptism, declaring us Your beloved heirs. Grant that we may daily die to sin and rise to newness of life, living with joy as Your baptized children. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord God, as You have opened heaven to Your Church through Holy Baptism, give her faithful teachers to proclaim Your Son, Jesus Christ, and all that accords with godliness, that many would repent of their sins and join Him in His kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O Lord, preserve the family, especially all Christian homes. Turn husband and wife toward one another in love, equip fathers and mothers for their holy duty as teachers of the faith, and preserve all children in the saving faith and certain promises of their Baptism unto life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O God, Your Son, Jesus, is the Christ and the true King of this world. Grant great humility to the rulers of the nations, that they would submit to the preaching of His Holy Word for the sake of their own souls and for the good of Your holy people. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Almighty Lord, You sent Your Son to serve Your people and deliver them from sin and death. Because we long for Your salvation, bring us out of our afflictions and uphold all those bruised in spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Merciful God, in Holy Baptism You have opened the heavens to Your children. Grant that all those baptized into Your Son would worthily receive the heavenly feast of His body and blood for their forgiveness, life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O Lord, our God, You have brought eternal life to us through the death of Your Son. Grant that we who have come through Baptism and have died to this world would ever more and more live in the resurrected life of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

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.**

## ***Service of the Sacrament***

P: The Lord be with you.



**C And with thy spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

Music notation for the hymn 'Lift up your hearts.' in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics 'We lift them up un - to the Lord.' are written below the notes.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

Music notation for the hymn 'Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.' in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics 'It is meet and right so to do.' are written below the notes.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and singing:

Music notation for the beginning of the 'Hallelujah' chant in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;' are written below the notes.

Music notation for the continuation of the 'Hallelujah' chant in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics 'heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,' are written below the notes.

Music notation for the continuation of the 'Hallelujah' chant in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics 'ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,' are written below the notes.

Music notation for the continuation of the 'Hallelujah' chant in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics 'bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.' are written below the notes.

Music notation for the continuation of the 'Hallelujah' chant in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics 'Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.' are written below the notes.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

#### † WORDS of INSTITUTION

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."

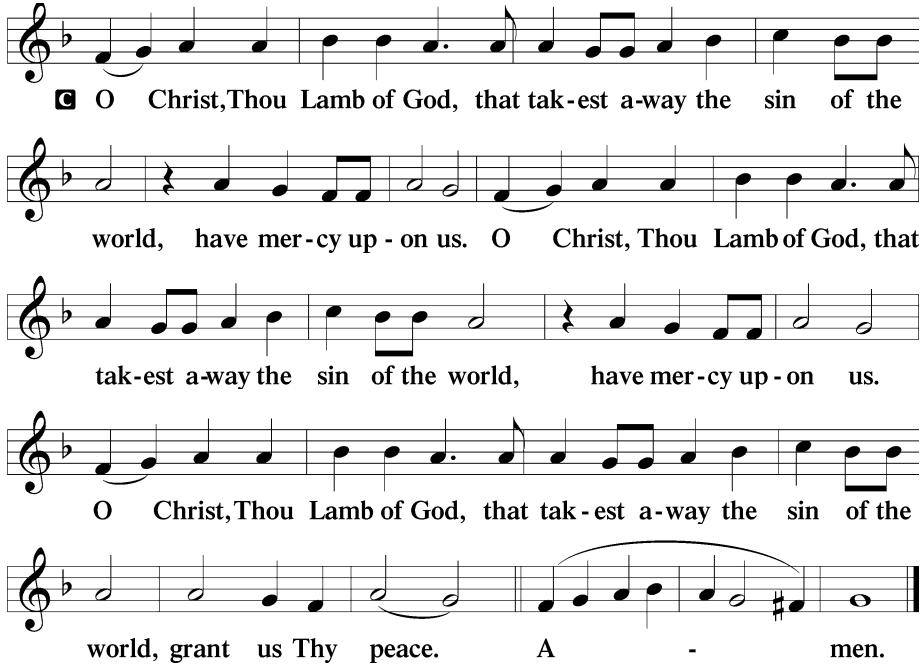
In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

† PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



† AGNUS DEI



**(Be Seated)**

Regarding the Reception of the Lord's Supper

At Saint John's we believe, teach, and confess according to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions that in the Lord's Supper we receive not merely bread and wine, but the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. This Holy Supper is not only a gift of Christ, but also a confession of the faith and doctrine confessed at this altar. Because Holy Scripture warns that those who eat and drink unworthily do so to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), and because communing together is also an expression of unity in doctrine and confession, we joyfully invite to the Lord's Table all confirmed members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) who are in good standing with their home congregation, who have been instructed and who publicly confess

*this faith. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation, we are thankful for your presence today and warmly invite you to come forward for a blessing, indicating this by crossing your arms over your chest as the pastor approaches. Following the service and in the coming week, our pastors would be glad to speak with you about the Lord's Supper and to share more about what we believe, teach, and confess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*

† DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. 602: “*The Gifts Christ Freely Gives*”



1 The gifts Christ free - ly gives He gives to you and me  
2 The gifts flow from the font Where He calls us His own;  
3 The gifts of grace and peace From ab - so - lu - tion flow;  
4 The gifts are there each day The ho - ly Word is read;



To be His Church, His bride, His cho - sen, saved and free!  
New life He gives that makes Us His and His a - lone.  
The pas - tor's words are Christ's For us to trust and know.  
God's chil - dren lis - ten, hear, Re - ceive, and they are fed.



Saints blest with these rich gifts Are chil - dren who pro - claim  
Here He for - gives our sins With wa - ter and His Word;  
For - give - ness that we need Is grant - ed to us there;  
Christ fills them with Him - self, Blest words that give them life,



That they were won by Christ And cling to His strong name.  
The tri - une God Him - self Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.  
The Lord of mer - cy sends Us forth in His blest care.  
Re - stor - ing and re - fresh - ing Them for this world's strife.

5     **The gifts are in the feast,  
          Gifts far more than we see;  
          Beneath the bread and wine  
            Is food from Calvary.  
          The body and the blood  
            Remove our ev'ry sin;  
          We leave His presence in  
            His peace, renewed again.**

6 All glory to the One  
Who lavishes such love;  
The triune God in love  
Assures our life above.  
His means of grace for us  
Are gifts He loves to give;  
All thanks and praise for His  
Great love by which we live!

(Please Stand)

† NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-

cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A-men.

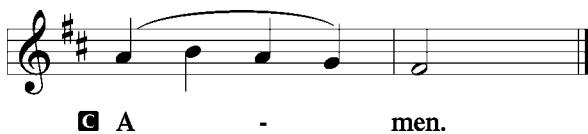
† THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

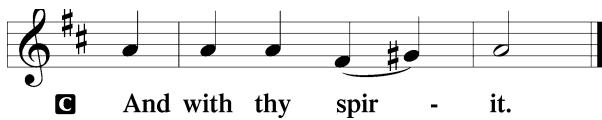
P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns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



**C** A - men.

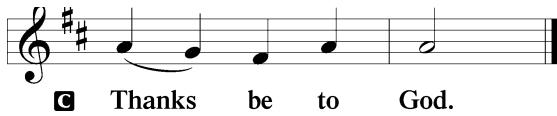
† SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

P: Bless we the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

† BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

† RECESSIONAL HYMN NO **596**: “All Christians Who Have Been Baptized”



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap - tized, Who know the God of  
2 You were be - fore your day of birth, In - deed, from your con-  
3 But all of that was washed a - way— Im - mersed and drowned for-  
4 In Bap - tism we now put on Christ— Our shame is ful - ly



cep - tion, Con-demned and lost with all the earth, None good, with-  
ev - er. The wa - ter of your Bap-tism day Re - stored a -  
cov - ered With all that He once sac - ri - ficed And free - ly



out ex - cep - tion. For like your par - ents' flesh and blood, Turned  
gain what-ev - er Old Ad - am and his sin de - stroyed And  
for us suf - fered. For here the flood of His own blood Now



in - ward from the high - est good, You con-stant - ly de - nied Him.  
all our sin - ful selves em-ployed Ac - cord-ing to our na - ture.  
makes us ho - ly, right, and good Be - fore our heav'n-ly Fa - ther.

**5 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!**

† POSTLUDE

**THIS WEEK:**

WEDNESDAY	Choir Practice Mid-Week Advent Service	4:45 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
THURSDAY	Pastor Riley's Bible Study	10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
NEXT SUNDAY	8:30 AM Bible Study - Led by Herb Greenspan ( <i>In the Lounge</i> ) 9:00 AM Bible Study - Led by Pastor Windoloski <i>(In last room on the left - the WINGS room)</i> Divine Service	10:00 a.m.

**Stewardship: Faith in Action**

God has given His people the high honor and great privilege to be stewards of His wonderful creation. We care for His creation as well as the gifts that our gracious God has entrusted to each of us individually. Through faith, we understand that all we are and have are gifts from Him. What we do as stewards is governed by His Word, and we use the time, talents, and resources He entrusts to us according to His will and for His purposes. Stewardship is our response as believers to what God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He wants us to use the resources that He has provided us in such a way that people come to know and trust in Him.

In his book, *Stepping Stones of the Steward*, Ron Vallet wrote, "Stewards are not simply born. We are created and molded as stewards by the Holy Spirit in a life-long process that includes conversion to the shape of the life we see in Jesus Christ and many experiences of losing and finding our way in the Lord." Despite our unworthiness, God has chosen us in Christ to become His stewards. By our own reason or strength, we are unable to be faithful in our stewardship, but, through the Holy Spirit working within us through Word and Sacrament, we can be faithful stewards. Our stewardship becomes a joy rather than an obligation. It is our connection to Christ which enables us to be stewards each and every day. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "I can do all things through Him Who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). God equips us to do whatever He calls us to do.

Because of God's goodness, He thinks so highly of us that He trusts us to administer what belongs to Him. As God's stewards, we understand the privileges and responsibilities that we have in all the relationships of life. Our stewardship impacts our relationships with our families, neighbors, co-workers, and with all of creation. As His stewards, we receive His gifts thankfully, manage them responsibly, and give them generously.

Christian stewardship puts our faith into action. It is our whole-hearted response to God's redeeming love. Faith gives us access to God's endless source of power, and faith produces the works of love that we do in Christ. May God help each of us become the stewards who tap into His strength, seek to do His will, and attempt to fulfill His purposes. Blessings on your stewardship journey!