



# **JESUS' BAPTISM**

# **OUR BAPTISMS**

Epiphany 1

January 7, 2024



# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## ***God's Word for this New Year***

At his baptism in the Jordan River Jesus was publicly anointed with the Holy Spirit and designated by God the Father as his chosen Messiah. Thus, Jesus' baptism was the beginning of his public ministry. Jesus' baptism revealed that he was not just a nice guy who could make a sturdy table. He was God's chosen servant, the one who had come to bring salvation to the ends of the earth. Jesus is the one willing to stand in our place as our substitute and Savior. Jesus' baptism reveals to us who he really is. Our own baptism does the same! Our baptism was the beginning of a new and better life—eternal life!—a gift graciously given to us by our truest friend. Jesus' ministry and our eternity with him. It begins with baptism.

## ***Before Worship***

Take time for prayer and to review the lessons and the service notes.

## ***General Information***

The restrooms are located in the fellowship hall.  
Visitors – welcome, and please take a moment  
and sign the guestbook in the fellowship hall.

## ***Serving in Worship***

Music: Rachel Halldorson  
Ushers: Josiah Kroll, Art Kutschied  
Pastor: Wayne Halldorson  
Pastor's Cell: 903-717-1922  
Pastor's Email: [grace.tx.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:grace.tx.pastor@gmail.com)

## ***Church Information***

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Prayer Requests: [prayers.grace.wels@gmail.com](mailto:prayers.grace.wels@gmail.com)  
text to 520-236-9673

### ***T-Loop Hearing Assistance***

*If you have a hearing aid with a T-coil, you can connect it to the T-Loop device installed throughout the church building. Headsets are available for anyone needing hearing assistance. Personal ear-buds can also be used with a head set. See Kris Martinson if you need assistance.*



# EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERVICE

## 370 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW 370 sts. 1-3



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see  
2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, true Son of God  
3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved me ere



and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.  
and Mar - y's son, the high - born King of a - ges!  
you had be - gun this an - cient world's foun - da - tion.



O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race, my Bride - groom and  
In your blest bod - y let me be, e'en as the branch  
Your Son has made a friend of me, and when in spir -



my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.  
is in the tree, your life my life sup - ply - ing.  
it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious  
Sigh - ing, cry - ing for the sa - vor of your fa - vor,  
What bliss is this! He is liv - ing, to me giv - ing



Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n - ly plac - es.  
rest - ing nev - er till I rest in you for - ev - er.  
life for - ev - er; noth - ing me from him can sev - er.

## ***Invocation***

We begin this new season of Epiphany in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## ***Opening Verses / Confession & Absolution***

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

**We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Jesus has made peace between a Holy God and a world of sinners.

**He has destroyed death and brought us life and immortality.**

Bless your children, O Lord, as we meditate upon your Word,

**That we may gain perspective on everything in life.**

As the light of Christ shines upon us, our eyes are opened to see him.

And, through the light of God's law, our eyes also see our sinfulness.

Let us therefore confess our sins to him; that the darkness within us may be disbursed:

**We confess to you, Lord, that we are sinners.**

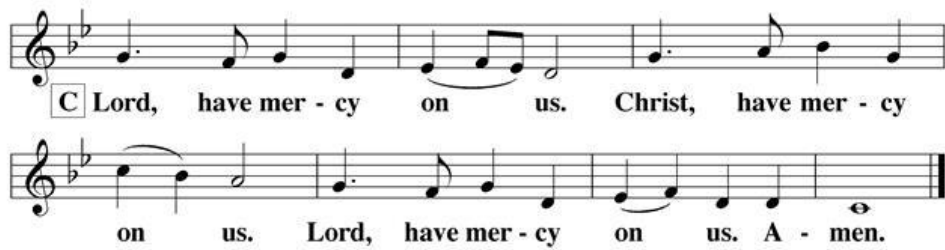
**Our natural state knows only darkness, sin, and despair.**

**But since you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us,**

**have mercy on us, and for his sake grant us forgiveness of all our**

**sins. By your Holy Spirit kindle in us the light of Christ, that we may sin no more and worship you in holy wisdom.**

**By your grace, may we remain in your family and finally come to everlasting life; all through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**



The Lord has promised that if we confess our sins, He, who is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

God has had mercy upon you, and cleansed you from all wickedness. God has driven out the darkness out from within you.

Rest assured that you have peace with God; that your sins are indeed forgiven in the Name of the Father, and the Son, † and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen. Thanks be to God. We are now ready to live as baptized children of the Light.**

Let us respond to this Good News and praise him for his glorious grace:



# 370 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW 370 sts. 4-5



4 Oh, joy to know that you, my friend, are Lord, be - gin -  
5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds



ning with-out end, the first and last, e - ter - nal!  
of mu - sic ring in God's high prais - es blend - ed.



And you at length— O glo-rious grace— will take me to  
Christ will be with me all the way, to - day, to - mor -



that ho - ly place, the home of joys su - per - nal.  
row, ev - 'ry day till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.



A - men, a - men! Come and meet me, quick - ly greet me!  
Sing out, ring out tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious



With deep yearn - ing, Lord, I look for your re - turn - ing.  
cho - sen na - tion; praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## ***Prayer of the Day***

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.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

# **THE WORD**

## ***First Reading***

Isaiah 49:1–6

- <sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you islands;  
hear this, you distant nations:  
Before I was born the LORD called me;  
from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.
- <sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me into a polished arrow  
and concealed me in his quiver.
- <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."
- <sup>4</sup>But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing at all.

Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand,  
and my reward is with my God."

<sup>5</sup>And now the LORD says—

he who formed me in the womb to be his servant  
to bring Jacob back to him  
and gather Israel to himself,  
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD  
and my God has been my strength—

<sup>6</sup>he says:

"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant  
to restore the tribes of Jacob  
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.  
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,  
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

## ***Psalm 2***

Spoken responsively

Why do the nations rage?

**Why do the peoples plot in vain?**

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers assemble  
**against the LORD and against his Anointed One.**

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."**

I will declare the LORD's decree:

**He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."**



<sup>1</sup>What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup>By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup>Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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— <sup>7</sup>because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

<sup>8</sup>Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

<sup>11</sup>In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

***Installation of those who serve Grace in an official capacity:***

*Those called to serve Grace in an official capacity may come forward to be installed for 2024: Ladies of Grace officers / Sunday School teachers / Church Secretary / Early Childhood (MWM) / Council members / Elders. Thank-you all for serving the family of Grace!*

**Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.**  
**Alleluia.**

**375 Arise and Shine in Splendor**

CW 375 sts. 1, 4

1 A - rise and shine in splen - dor; let night to  
 4 Your heart will leap for glad - ness when from the

day sur - ren - der. Your light is draw - ing near.  
 realms of sad - ness they come from near and far.

A - bove, the day is beam - ing, in match-less beau - ty  
 Your eyes will wake from slum - ber as peo - ple with - out

gleam - ing; the glo - ry of the Lord is here.  
 num - ber re - joice to see the Morn - ing Star.

Text: tr. Gerhard Gieschen, 1899–1987, alt.; Martin Opitz, 1597–1639, abr.

Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450–1517

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Tune: Public domain

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup>“ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

## 372 As with Gladness Men of Old

CW 372 sts. 1–2



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold,  
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright,  
there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore,



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led by thee.  
so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.

## Second Gospel Reading

Mark 1:4–11

<sup>4</sup>And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him.

Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

<sup>6</sup>John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."



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



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



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,



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



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!

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

Tune: Johann Caspar Bachofen, 1695-1755, alt.

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## Sermon

Romans 6:1-11 "Is your Baptism valuable?"

What does Baptism do for us?

**Baptism works forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.**

What are these words and promises of God?

**Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."**

**679 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It**

CW 679 sts. 4-5



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! When I die, I leave all sad-ness to in -  
com - fort sure! O - pen-eyed my grave is star - ing: e - ven



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,



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



strength di - vine to make life im - mor - tal mine.  
in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

## *Offering*

### *Apostles' Creed*

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

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.

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.

### *Prayer of the Church*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son, in the fullness of time  
you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

**You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

**You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

**Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.

**Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you in prayer those things and those people who weigh upon our hearts:

*Silent & personal prayers . . .*

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

**Amen.**



## ***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.**

## ***Blessing***

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  $\dagger$  give you peace.  
**Amen.**

### ***Acknowledgments***

Setting Nine (Scandinavian) from Christian Worship  
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1 You're the Word of God the Fa-ther from be-fore the  
 2 Yet you left the gaze of an-gels, came to seek and  
 3 With a shout you rose vic-to-rious, wrest-ling vic-t'ry



world be-gan. Ev-'ry star and ev-'ry plan-et has been  
 save the lost, and ex-changed the joy of heav-en for the  
 from the grave, and as-cend-ed in-to heav-en, lead-ing



fash-ioned by your hand. All cre-a-tion holds to-  
 an-guish of a cross. With a prayer you fed the  
 cap-tives in your way. Now you stand be-fore the



geth-er by the pow-er of your voice. Let the skies de-  
 hun-gry, with a word you calmed the sea, yet how si-lent-  
 Fa-ther, in-ter-ced-ing for your own; from each tribe and



clare your glo-ry, let the land and seas re-joice!  
 ly you suf-fered that the guilt-y may go free!  
 tongue and na-tion you are lead-ing sin-ners home!

*Refrain*



You're the au-thor of cre-a-tion, you're the Lord of ev-'ry



man, and your cry of love rings out a-cross the lands.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ***Today's Events***

Please stick around and join us for a potluck lunch today – thank you to all who brought food and help clean up. After the lunch, if possible, you can help us take down and put away the Christmas tree and decorations. Following that our Council will meet in the GMC and Ladies of Grace will meet in the fellowship hall.

Thank you to all who have committed to serve the Grace family in 2024 as well, we so appreciate your hard work and service!

## ***Bible Classes***

This week our regular midweek Bible Classes resume – Genesis on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm / Revelation on Thursdays at 6:00 pm. The monthly Parables class on the last Friday of the month will also resume in January, with the men's and women's lunch out to follow at 11:30 am.

## ***A Look at our Church Library***

On Giving Advice to God - Part 1 & 2

Wanting to strengthen your devotional life? Are you looking for something meaty that challenges your spiritual growth? "On Giving Advice to God" Parts 1 & 2 by Daniel Deutschlander is available in the church library for you to check out. Developing the theme "The Wisdom of God and the Foolishness of Man", the author reminds the reader how far God's wisdom goes beyond our human thoughts and understanding. Part 1 takes us from Advent through Ascension, following along the church year and the familiar accounts of Scripture we've come to anticipate year after year. The insights you are sure to gain will deepen your understanding and appreciation for God's wisdom and magnanimous love! Part 2 takes us through Pentecost and beyond. Once you get into it, you may even be tempted to buy a copy for your own personal library because you will want to come back to this again and again - one read through is

not enough! It makes a great couples' devotion too, and offers plenty of discussion opportunities each time. Your devotional life will never be the same!

### ***Upcoming Schedule***

Today	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Epiphany Worship
Today	11:00 am	Potluck Lunch
Today	11:30 am	Tree and decorations come down
Today	12:00 pm	Ladies of Grace / Council
Tuesday	all day	Pastor at Circuit in DFW
Jan. 10	3:00 pm	Genesis class
Jan. 11	6:00 pm	Revelation class
Jan. 14	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + Communion
Jan. 17	3:00 pm	Genesis class
Jan. 18	10:00 am	Mornings with Mommy (GMC)
Jan. 18	6:00 pm	Revelation class
Jan. 21	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship
Jan. 24	3:00 pm	Genesis class
Jan. 25	6:00 pm	Revelation class
Jan. 26	10:30 am	Parables monthly Bible class
Jan. 26	11:30 am	Men's and women's lunch out
Jan. 28	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + Communion
Jan. 31	3:00 pm	Genesis class

