

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope
JANUARY 12, 2025 PASTOR ELAINA SALMON

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

THE GATHERING

Children's Sermon

(Please stand.)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P 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.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Remembrance of Baptism

Gathering Song *“Come to the Water of Life”*

*All who are thirsty for mercy,
all who are thirsty for love;
all who are thirsty for love, for mercy, come:
come to the Water of life.*

*All who are thirsty for healing,
all who are thirsty for touch;
all who are thirsty for touch, for healing, come:
come to the Water of life.*

*All who are thirsty for beauty,
all who are thirsty for truth;
all who are thirsty for truth, for beauty, come:
come to the Water of life.*

*All who are thirsty for justice,
all who are thirsty for peace;
all who are thirsty for peace, for justice, come:
come to the Water of life.*

Greeting

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

C **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise *“Glory to You”*

*Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours is the promise, the blessing, the birth.
Ours the rejoicing for Word given frame;
ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.
Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;
yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.*

Prayer of the Day

- P Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

THE WORD

The First Reading Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29

- A Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- C Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**
- A The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- C The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**
- A The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- C the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- A The voice of the Lord
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- C The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- A The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"
- C The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
- A O Lord, give strength to your people;
give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

Second Reading Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand.)

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Acclamation *Celtic Alleluia*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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Gospel Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John 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. His 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."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and 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."

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

(Please be seated.)

Sermon Rev. Elaina Salmon

(Please stand.)

Hymn of the Day “Before the Sun Burned Bright”

Refrain

*Before the sun burned bright, and rivers flowed,
I called you each by name to share my home.
No longer be afraid; I am your God.
My love will never end, alleluia.*

*Though you have sent me, Lord, to ev'ry land,
I can't find words to speak your ways of love. Refrain*

*The Lord reached out his hand and touched my tongue.
I give my words to you to speak my love. Refrain*

*My hand will bring you words, so speak them loud.
I am your Lord and God; the Faithful One. Refrain*

Prayers of the People

A With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

(a moment of silence)

A You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially missionaries and international congregations. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. We especially pray for *(Bethany Prayer List)*. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A You draw us into community. Embolden our witness that we may proclaim your love in word and deed. Give us courage to invite, welcome, and include so others may know the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
C **Amen.**

Sharing of Christ's Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

(Please be seated.)

THE MEAL

Invitation to the Offering

P As people who have passed through the waters of baptism, let us make our grateful offering to God our Redeemer.

Offering

(Please stand.)

Offertory Song *“In the Singing”*

*In the singing, in the silence,
in the hands expectant, open,
in the blessing, in the breaking,
in your presence at this table,*

*Refrain
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the wine of grace;
Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the bread of peace.*

*In the question, in the answer,
in the moment of acceptance,
in the heart's cry, in the healing,
in the circle of your people, Refrain*

Offertory Prayer

- A 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.
- C **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- P Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the will of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- P 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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

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

(Please be seated.)

Communion Distribution

Communion Songs

“Lamb of God”

LAMB OF GOD

*Mass of a Joyful Heart
Steve Angrisano*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.

sins of the world: grant us peace.

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“Baptized in Water”

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.*

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king:
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise we sing.*

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king:
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praise we sing.*

(Please stand.)

Communion Blessing

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

A 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,

C **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

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

C **Amen.**

Sending Song “*Born, Reborn*”

Refrain
Born, reborn! Born, reborn! Formed, reformed!
Souls with gladness now adorned!
Born, reborn! Born, reborn! Formed, reformed!
Praise our God forevermore!

*Drown us. (Drown us.) Raise us. (Raise us.)
Mark us. (Mark us.) Claim us! (Claim us!) Refrain*

*Name us. (Name us.) Heal us. (Heal us.)
Wash us. (Wash us.) Seal us! (Seal us!) Refrain*

Dismissal

P Go in peace to nurture with love and serve with hope.

C **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

MariLynn Bergmark	Nancy Iwan	Dick Pierce
Sharon Bolerjack	Monica Johnson	Charlotte Pohlman
Hazel Brant	Pat Johnson	Misty Pounder
Scott Browne	Caty K	Brilee Robbins
Anthony Campagna	Zeplyn Killmer	Ken Rose
Gary Cobbett	Lenny Kobilca	Frank Roy
Sidney Colburn	Carrie Koon	Ben Sabourin
Jim Connelly	Rev. John Lang	George Scheel
Beau Dowling	Nancy Lang	Bernie Schroeder
Maggie Driscoll	Sue Lucheon	Tim Schroeder
Finley Engnell	Scott Lundgren	Virginia Schroeder
Elwood Faulhaber	Dede Machowski	Sharon Skopec
Judy Faulhaber	Hanna Mau	Gene Sobba
Abby Galvin	Jim McKeever	Gary Sperka
David Gilchrist	Ruth Ann Miller	Burt Swartz
Chriss Hassel	Omni Rook Myers	Dom Thielmann
Marie Heeren	Linda Nelson	Kayley Koter Taddeo
Mike Hoffman	Jane Nilles	Chuck Vlcek
Bob Hoster	Dave Nommenson	Kyle Williams

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For those we name in our hearts, and for those who have not yet found Jesus.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING TODAY — Bill McAdam

ACOLYTES — Evan Parker and Nia Salmon

MUSICIAN — Sue Gray

TECH CREW — Gary Gray, Sue Gray and Zach Howell

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VACATION

Pr. Elaina will be on vacation this week. In case of pastoral emergency please contact the church office or Council President Kealy Schroeder to be connected to the pastor on call.

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