

Baptism of our Lord

January 11, 2026

PRELUDE

Becky Retherford

Gathering

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.

We bless you, almighty God, for the gift of water--
for the oceans that surround the earth,
for the rivers that nurture the land,
for the Kinnickinnic River and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, that you
provide for our community--

we bless you, O God, for the waters of earth:

We bless you, O God, for the waters of earth.

We honor you, merciful God, for showering us with water--
for the rain that nourishes the plants and trees,
for the floods that restore the fields,
for the dew that freshens dry places--

we honor you, O God, for the waters you send:

We honor you, O God, for the waters you send.

We glorify you, gracious God, for the waters of baptism--
for the water of the Jordan that washed our Lord Jesus,
for the water that baptized the believers on Pentecost,
for the water that illumines us with your Word,
for the water that pours out the gifts of the Spirit,
for the water that bathes the church universal—Christians of all kinds:
the Orthodox, Roman Catholics, Protestants,
Pentecostals, Evangelicals, independents--

we glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism:

We glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism.

We worship you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
almighty, merciful, and gracious.

Well of forgiveness, you revive us,

Cup of cold water, you refresh us,

Pool of rebirth, you renew us.

To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever:

To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever.

Amen.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #310

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.
- 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
prophet, priest, and king supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in pow'r divine,
changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.
- 3 Manifest in making whole
weakened body, fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill:
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

- 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
 present in thy holy word;
 grace to imitate thee now
 and be pure, as pure art thou;
 that we might become like thee
 at thy great epiphany,
 and may praise thee, ever blest,
 God in flesh made manifest.

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God our Father, **at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your children, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Word

BIBLE READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #510 - vs. 1, 3 "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"

- 1 Word of God, come down on earth,
 living rain from heav'n descending;
 touch our hearts and bring to birth
 faith and hope and love unending.
 Word almighty, we revere you;
 Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

- 3 Word that speaks God's tender love,
 one with God beyond all telling,
 Word that sends us from above
 God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
 Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
 Word of life, with one bread feed us.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:13-17

SERMON

Pastor Julie Brenden

RESPONSIVE READING *(Lyrics of ELW #304, "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized")*

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.**

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.**

Straightway and steadfast until death
 you then obeyed the call
**to serve with free and willing heart, to give your life for all,
 to give your life for all.**

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.**

HYMN OF DAY ELW #459 "Wade in the Water"

**Refrain: Wade in the water,
 wade in the water, children,
 wade in the water,
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.**

- 1 (See that host all dressed in white,
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
 (the leader looks like the Israelite.)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. **To Refrain**)
- 2 (See that band all dressed in red,
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
 (looks like the band that Moses led.)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. **To Refrain**)

3 (Look over yonder, what do I see?)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
 (the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. **To Refrain**

4 (If you don't believe I've been redeemed,)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
 (just follow me down to Jordan's stream.)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. **To Refrain**

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

Responses: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

OFFERING & HYMN ELW #423 "Shall We Gather at the River"

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. **To Refrain**

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, **maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

May the triune God,
 who has put a new song in your mouth
 and tuned your heart for praise †
 bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW #838 “Beautiful Savior”

- 1 Beautiful Savior,
 King of creation,
 Son of God and Son of Man!
 Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
 light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows,
 fair are the woodlands,
 robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
 Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
 he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine,
 fair is the moonlight,
 bright the sparkling stars on high;
 Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
 than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior,
 Lord of the nations,
 Son of God and Son of Man!
 Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
 now and forevermore be thine!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.