

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
of Stillwater, Minnesota

January 11, 2026  
Baptism of our Lord



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Your presence at worship is important to God and to us! Whether you are a first-time visitor, frequent participant, neighbor, member, or friend, please take a moment as you prepare for worship to share some information on the "Welcome to Worship" card included with your bulletin. Place it in the offering plate at the time the offering is received.

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

Many of our worship materials are taken from the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW). Page numbers are located in the front half of the book, and hymn numbers are located in the back half of the book.

The assembly **speaks** or **sings** the bold responses.



## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Prelude

Nicole and Taylor Hockin

*"Josefins Dopvals"*  
(Swedish Baptism Waltz)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

ELW page 97



Gathering Song

ELW hymn 423

*"Shall We Gather at the River"*



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

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 daughters and sons, 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

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

First Reading

Pew Bible: Old Testament Pages 670-671

Isaiah 42:1-9

*God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.*

*At the conclusion:*

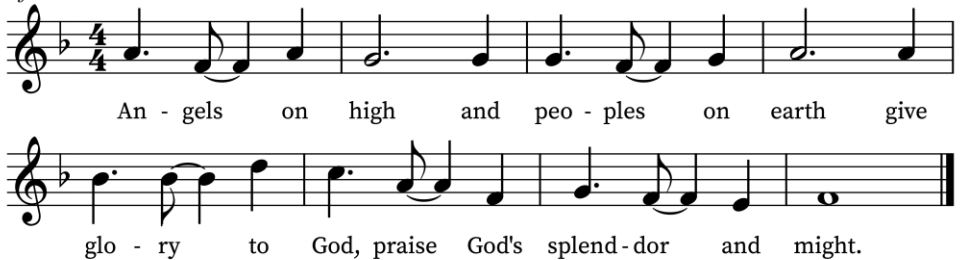
Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

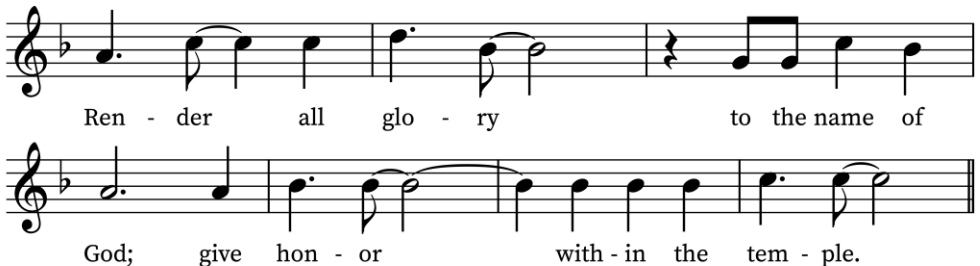
Psalm 29 (paraphrase)

*The refrain is sung first by a soloist, then sung by all, after each verse.*

*Refrain*



*Verses*



2. O-ver the wa-ters,  
hear the voice of God  
re-sound-ing  
with thund'ring pow'r.

3. And to the peo-ple  
God will give strength,  
and bless-ings  
of grace and peace.

## Acts 10:34-43

*Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

*At the conclusion:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Children's and Outreach Message

Jenny Brelje



## Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -

lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4

Matthew 3:13-17

*Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.*

*The gospel is introduced:*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

Hymn of the Day

ELW Hymn 304

*"Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"*

Prayers of Intercession

*After each prayer:*

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*At the conclusion:*

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.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*All are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Offering                *"The Lover's Waltz"*                Nicole & Taylor Hockin

*Our offering is a collection of money for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, as a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. Your offering and "Welcome to Worship" card may be placed in the offering plate. The QR code on the right may be used if you wish to give electronically.*



### Offering Prayer

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.**



### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts,

**We lift them to the Lord**

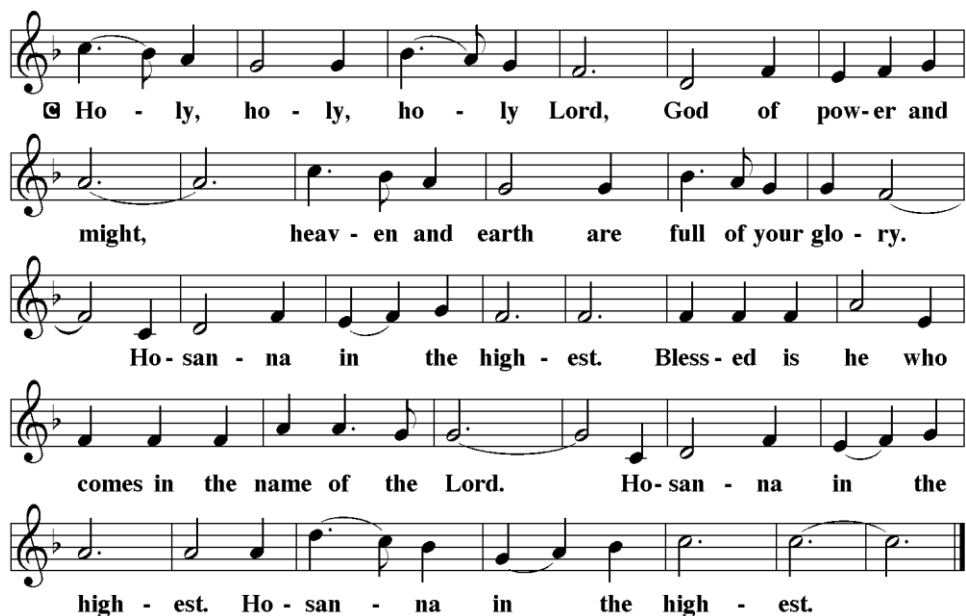
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . .

. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Continued on the next page.) 6



Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks . . .

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and  
forever.

**Amen.**



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.**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.



## Communion

*We celebrate at an open communion table. All who hear our Lord's invitation are welcome to participate. Receive the bread first with an open hand and eat immediately, followed by the juice (white) or wine (red). Gluten-free bread is available at the front end of the center aisle. Please indicate to an usher if you need to receive communion from your pew. Children who have received age-appropriate instruction are welcome to commune. If you prefer instead to receive a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your shoulders.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

*and each person may respond:*

**Amen.**



Communion Song

ELW hymn 396

*"Spirit of Gentleness"*

## Prayer After Communion

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### Announcements

### Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

### Sending Song

ELW hymn 310

*"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"*

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

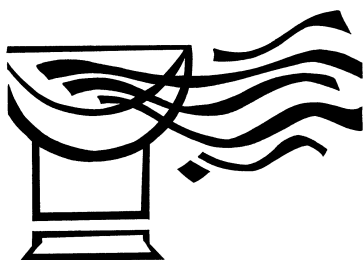
**Thanks be to God.**

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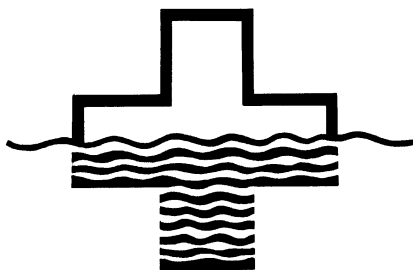
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**DAILY PRAYER**  
**For Those Preparing for Baptism**



Merciful and most high God, creator and giver of life, you have called all people from darkness into light, from error into truth, from death into life. Grant grace to those preparing for baptism and bless them. Raise them by your Spirit. Revive them by your word. Form them by your hand. Bring them to the water of life and to the bread and cup of blessing, that with all your people they may bear witness to your grace and praise you forever through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**CONNECTIONS WITH THE LITURGY**  
*Baptized For What?*



Our baptism into Christ can mean many things, but it certainly includes a commitment to serving others. In the thanksgiving for baptism, we praise God that Jesus was anointed for service by the Holy Spirit. That same Spirit anoints us for service in our baptism. The blue backdrop in our sanctuary to the words "Go in Peace. Serve the Lord" reminds us that baptism and service go together.

## CATECHISM CONNECTION

### In Baptism, You Die



In teaching on baptism in the Small Catechism, Martin Luther points to a primary meaning of our baptism as noted by Paul in Romans 6:4: "We were buried with Christ through baptism into death . . ." Our baptism points to not only to our final resurrection on the last day, but on the daily dying and rising that marks our life as disciples of Christ. Thus, Luther teaches that baptism "signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever."

## **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

### **Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968 Thursday, January 15, 2026**

Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered as an American prophet of justice among races and nations, a Christian whose faith undergirded his advocacy of vigorous yet nonviolent action for racial equality. A pastor of churches in Montgomery, Alabama, and Atlanta, Georgia, his witness was taken to the streets in such other places as Birmingham, Alabama, where he was arrested and jailed while protesting against segregation. He preached nonviolence and demanded that love be returned for hate. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he was killed by an assassin on April 4, 1968. Though most commemorations are held on the date of the person's death, many churches hold commemorations near Dr. King's birth date of January 15, in conjunction with the American civil holiday honoring him. An alternate date for the commemoration would be his death date, April 4.

### **Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356 Saturday, January 17, 2026**

Antony was born in Qemen-al-Arous, Upper Egypt, and was one of the earliest Egyptian desert fathers. Born to Christian parents from whom he inherited a large estate, he took personally Jesus' message to sell all that you have, give to the poor, and follow Christ. After making arrangements to provide for the care of his sister, he gave away his inheritance and became a hermit. Later, he became the head of a group of monks who lived in a cluster of huts and devoted themselves to communal prayer, worship, and manual labor under Antony's direction. The money they earned from their work was distributed as alms. Antony and his monks also preached and counseled those who sought them out. Antony and the desert fathers serve as a reminder that certain times and circumstances call Christians to stand apart from the surrounding culture and renounce the world in service to Christ.

## **Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346**

**Saturday, January 17, 2026**

Another of the desert fathers, Pachomius (puh-KOME-ee-us) was born in Egypt about 290. He became a Christian during his service as a soldier. In 320 he went to live as a hermit in Upper Egypt, where other hermits lived nearby. Pachomius organized them into a religious community in which the members prayed together and held their goods in common. His rule for monasteries influenced both Eastern and Western monasticism through the Rule of Basil and the Rule of Benedict, respectively.

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

### **Resistance Movements**

Herod plotting to kill. John at the riverbank. Peter in Jerusalem. Judas at the table. Thomas behind closed doors. Nicodemus in the night. Family at home. Crowds in the streets. Quite a collection, but merely a sampling of a much longer list. There are plenty in the pages of the scriptures, and in the circles of our daily rounds: they—we—who are wannabe followers and wannabe saboteurs, the well-meaning and the conspiratorial, neighbors we like, others we refuse to trust, family we put up with (or don't), coworkers we admire, mentors we respect, activists we fear, leaders we oppose. A lengthy list indeed. And this is what is shared among such a collection of souls: people standing in the way of, objecting to, arguing against Jesus. Road blockers.

Mystery floats in and over the murky baptismal ripples of the Jordan River. To this day, thousands throng to wade in those waters to receive, to remember, to renew, to celebrate baptism. Jesus came there too and was met by his cousin, the famous, wild, wandering baptizer, who tried to stop him. Make of John's protest what you will (humility, confusion, disagreement, panic, pride?), his inclination was to prevent Jesus' public repentance, Jesus' plain-to-be-seen-and-heard turning away from the expectations of the world order toward the divine imagination of God.

It is not always (more than likely rarely, though at times it surely is) evil intention that is the seed that grows to oppose God's invocation to take delight in merciful justice and breathe the spirit of righteousness. We clash, as John the Baptizer clashed (how often?), with heaven's hopes and blessings for all that God created in goodness, even as we are unmindful of our own dissent.

It is for us, in our moments and ways of objecting, that God—ever mindful of us—parts heaven's clouds, that we might see and hear the way of God's beloved Son.

## **Church Staff**

Sr. Pastor	Rev. Nathan Baker-Trinity
Visitation Pastor	Rev. Laurel Halvorson Bernard
Director of Music	Andy Peterson
Casual Worship Leader	Karen Hillmann
Office Coordinator	Kristin Nelson
CYF & Outreach Director	Jenny Brelje
Maintenance	Jeff Thomsen
Audio-Video Engineer	Tim Schingen

## **2025 Church Council Officers**

President	Shelley Jokinen
Secretary	Chris Shivers

## **2025 Committee Chairpersons**

Financial Operations	(Open Seat)
CYF	Sabrina Bell
Evangelism & Membership	(Open Seat)
Fellowship	Janine Siverson
Memorial & Grants	Diane Podratz Barb LaCosse
Mission Outreach	Ann Kriesel
Property & Grounds	(Open Seat)
Seniors	Jenny Powell
Worship	Jennifer Braun

## **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

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## **Office Hours**

Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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