

Worship Plan for Sunday, January 7, 2024

Baptism of Our Lord

ACS Holy Communion Setting 12

GATHERING

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

WELCOME

We begin our worship with centering prayer. Ask that God would direct our prayers for this day. At the end of our silent prayer, we invite you to list on the Welcome Card any specific prayer requests you would like included in our Prayers of Intercession later in the service. Our prayers reflect the wideness of God's mercy for the whole world and include: the ministry of the church; the well-being of creation; peace and justice in the world; the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, and lonely; all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Please be mindful of confidentiality and only name those who have given you permission.

GATHERING SONG *Brightest and Best of the Stars* (ELW 303)

Brightest and Best of the Stars



1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
 3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
 5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
 Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
 dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
 Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
 mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
 guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

A LITANY OF HEALING AND HOPE

I: When will help come?

We are haunted and afraid by what we cannot understand.

When will our help come, O God?

We are tired, aching, and empty.

When will our help come, O God?

Our bodies betray our past, bearing so many wounds not yet healed.

When will our help come, O God?

We are weary of the trauma relived and repeated in our lives, our relationships, and our bodies.

When will our help come, O God?

II. Be present

We are lost and alone in our grief.

Be present to us in our anguish, O God.

Our children do not know us; we do not know ourselves.

Be present to us in our anguish, O God.

Our relationships suffer; too many people use us and sin against us.

Be present to us in our anguish, O God.

We bear the pain of our trauma alone; our substances have become our refuge.

Be present to us in our anguish, O God.

III. Heal us

In our pain, we have lost our connection to you and to our true selves.

Heal us, most merciful God.

The burden of our guilt weighs on our hearts and minds.

Heal us, most merciful God.

We wrestle with the consequences of our choices and long for new beginnings.

Heal us, most merciful God.

We struggle to find peace and to trust in your mercy.
Heal us, most merciful God.

IV: Make us whole

Help us heal our broken bodies and broken spirits.

God of great compassion, make us whole again.

Teach us to love ourselves and our bodies, and to love one another as children of God.

God of great compassion, make us whole again.

Grant us the courage to breathe in the truth of your grace and to turn our grief into wonder.

God of great compassion, make us whole again.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit that we may become the people you have made us to be.

Amen.

Sisters and brothers, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

The minister lays both hands on each person's head and may use one of these forms or similar words. The minister may also anoint the person's forehead with oil, making the sign of the cross.

Name, in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, be strengthened and filled with God's grace, that you may know the healing power of the Spirit.

Response: Amen.

The laying on of hands will be accompanied by the singing the following hymns.

HYMN *We Come to You for Healing, Lord* (ELW 617)

PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, we come before you today, broken yet being healed through your love. Be present with us always, even when we only feel your absence. Give us the courage to stand in the shadow of the cross of your beloved Son and see your love laid open for us in that sacrifice. Give us the strength to mourn what has been lost and to bear the traumas of our past, knowing that you are with us in the present. Meet us in our brokenness and remind us that we are whole, and we are yours. Fill us with the light and hope to see ourselves—our bodies, minds, and spirits—as you see us: beloved children of the living God. Amen.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5

A reading from Genesis.

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**²Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

³The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.

**⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**⁶He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

**⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,

and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
**¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**
¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

A reading from Acts.

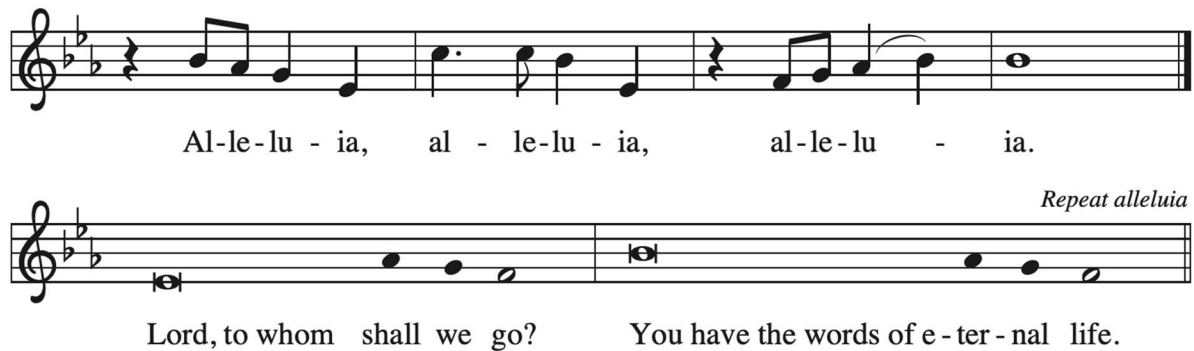
In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *Pastor Sara Wirth*

HYMN OF THE DAY *Let All Things Now Living (ELW 881)*

Let All Things Now Living

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
 2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
 deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
 joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
 Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
 Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and especially for all who are suffering or are in any affliction.

Silent prayer may follow.

Merciful God, you sent your Son to be our peace. Help all those who suffer any pain or grief, hopelessness or anxiety. In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Mighty God, mercifully grant strength to the weak and comfort to those who suffer, that their sickness and pain may be turned into health. In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

God of peace and reconciliation, bring an end to the sickness of the world, especially violence, terrorism, war, and their causes. In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Holy God, Holy One, your Son prayed that your people may be one. May the gift of baptism be a power for healing the church's brokenness, and bless all efforts for renewal and Christian unity. In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Loving God, mend broken relationships and bring peace to our families, our congregation, this community, and the world. In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Other petitions may be offered, including particular needs and requests for healing.

Eternal God, we thank you for all the faithful departed
[including name/s and those whom we remember before you . . .].
Heal the pain of all who grieve.

In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

O God, we bring these intercessions before you, knowing that you will hear us as you have promised, and will answer according to the mercy shown in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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,

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.
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

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.

Come and see.

COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

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 HYMN *Healer of Our Every Ill* (ELW 612)

COMMUNION HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (ELW 423)

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Merciful God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *As with Gladness Men of Old* (ELW 302)

As with Gladness Men of Old



- 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,
- 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
- 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
- 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



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 may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



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.
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.