

WHAT IS SEEN IN BAPTISM

There can be no life as we know without **water**. Christians see in the waters of baptism the matrix of our new life in Christ. The font is like the Jordan, a river of water that leads us to the new land of promise.

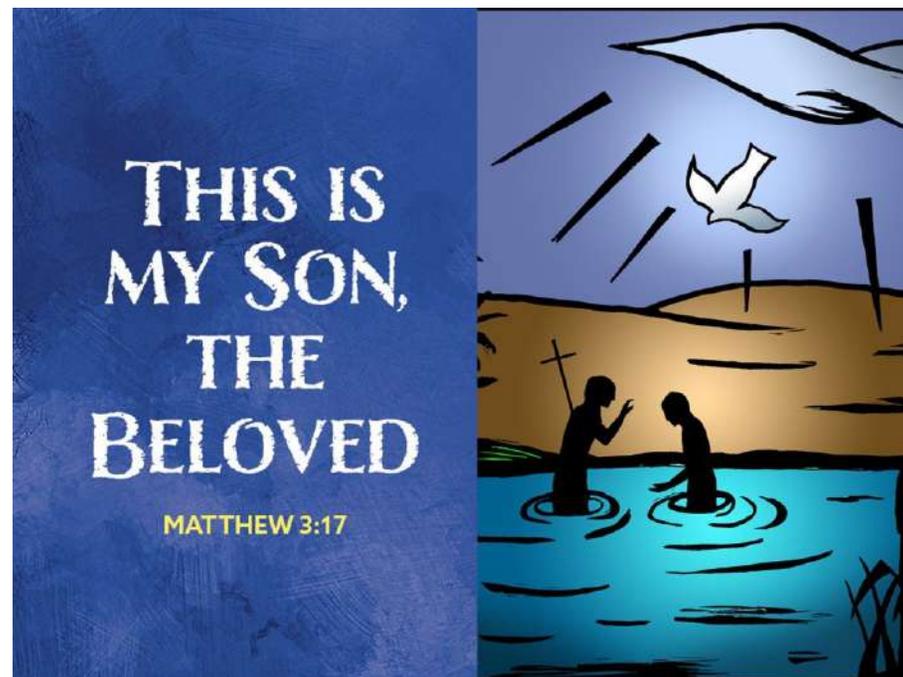
The **dove** functions in several biblical stories as a symbol of the presence of God's Holy Spirit. The white color matches the baptismal garment. Secular culture connects the dove especially with peace, which Acts cites as the message of Jesus' preaching.

The reading from Isaiah connects God as creator of the skies, the lands, and human beings with God as the light and liberator of all. As baptized Christians, we are called to continue this godly work: to liberate those who are oppressed, as well as to treasure and protect the "heavens and the earth" that God made.

The gospel reading uses the image of **Son** to describe Jesus' identity; the first reading uses the image of **servant**; and the second reading speaks of Jesus as **the anointed one**. Each of these images conveys something of the meaning of Jesus for believers. It is instructive to think about "Son" and "Christ" as metaphors before these words became literalized as part of Jesus' name.

Once again **light** is an image for the power of God. Early Christians referred to baptism as enlightenment.

In his book, *Inhabiting the Cruciform God* (Eerdmans, 2009; 34–35), Michael Gorman cements the relationship between baptism and faith in the kenotic, self-giving love of God. Understanding baptismal faith as cruciform means that "justification is by means of God's faithfulness expressed in love, demonstrated in Christ's act of faithfulness expressed in love, to which humans, moved and enabled by God's Spirit, respond in faithfulness that expresses itself in love—that is, in co-crucifixion." Having been "pulled into" Christ's death in baptism, we are energized to extend his self-giving love to others.



January 11, 2026 - 10:30 am

Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

January 11, 2026

The Baptism of Our Lord

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism (starting soon). Our regular Sunday schedule is:

- 8:00 am Early Worship
- 9:15 am Adult Sunday School
- 9:15 am J.A.M. Sunday School
- 10:30 am Late Worship
- 2:00 pm Chapel Communion

(2nd Sunday of the month)

LIVESTREAM AND RECORDED WORSHIP: We livestream the service on our church website at www.firststjohn.com. Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website

SMILE! YOU'RE ON CAMERA: Please remember you may be on camera during the livestream and the recording of the service.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please remember to silence your cell phone before church begins. Thanks!

NURSERY is provided during second service, downstairs in the basement of the church. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

RESTROOMS are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

FLOWERS: If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the lounge. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

MEMORIALS: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

READER

SOUND BOARD

The Baptism of Jesus

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:10-11
Choose the word that best matches the definition.
Answers can be found in Mark 1:4-11 (NIV)



1. The liquid used to baptize someone.
A. wine B. vinegar C. honey D. water
2. The river where Jesus was baptized.
A. Nile B. Amazon C. Jordan D. Danube
3. Name of the man who baptized Jesus.
A. John B. Peter C. Matthew D. Paul
4. To pardon for sins.
A. forgive B. sin C. repent D. dove
5. A sticky, sweet fluid made by bees.
A. water B. wine C. honey D. milk
6. To break one of God's commandments.
A. sin B. baptize C. repent D. forgive
7. To turn away from sin.
A. repent B. forgive C. baptize D. preach
8. What was heard when Jesus was baptized.
A. voice B. wind C. dove D. locusts
9. The Spirit came down from heaven like a _____.
A. river B. voice C. repent D. dove
10. To admit that you have done wrong.
A. baptize B. confess C. dove D. voice

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JESUS' BAPTISM



Invitation to Communion

P: Glory to God in the highest, Come to the table of peace.
C: We come at our Lord’s command.

The Communion *(distribution will be continuous)*

“All baptized Christians, believing that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord’s table.

Infant children and others who have not been baptized are welcome to come to receive a blessing; please make an X with your arms across your chest if you are not receiving the bread and wine.”

If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.

(After all have received communion, please stand.)

Prayer After Communion

P: Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table With gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: May God who comes among us, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always..

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn *“Arise, Your Light Has Come”* No. 314

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

* * * * *

Throughout the Sundays after Epiphany, the lectionary readings feature stories in which Jesus is shown forth as Christ, our Savior. The gospel for this coming Sunday tells of John the Baptist baptizing Jesus and a voice from heaven naming Jesus the Son of God. We who are baptized are also called sons and daughters of God. Come to worship, to remember and celebrate your own baptism.

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician

Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn *“As With Gladness Men of Old”* No. 302

Invocation

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, (+) one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in □ Jesus’ name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share the peace of the Lord.

The congregation may greet one another by shaking hands, fist bumping, or any other form of greeting with the words, “Peace be with you.” We conclude the sharing of the peace by singing:

**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.

- Songs of Thankfulness and Praise ELW 310 (verse 4)

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: 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 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.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Introduction

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

FIRST READING: 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.

- 1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- 2 He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;
- 3 a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.



P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

P: 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: To you, O God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

The Lord's Prayer *(prayed by all)*

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.

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (Each petition concludes with this response)

P: God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Musical Offertory "Lord, Listen To Your Children"

FSJ Chancel Choir, Jo-Anne Chrysochoos, Director of Music
Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician

(Please stand)

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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: 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:



4 He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
5 Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
6 I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
7 to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
8 I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
9 See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29 (Congregation responds in **BOLD**.)

1 Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
**2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.**
3 The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.
**4 The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**
5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
**6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**
7 The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
**8 The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
9 The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl
and strips the forest bare,
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

**10 The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.**

11 May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

34 Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand and sing)



Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 3.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: 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.

13 Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn "Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized" No. 304

(Please stand)

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,