

Sunday Worship Service – January 11, 2026

Baptism of Our Lord – Remembrance of Baptism

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement

Introduction*

On this Sunday that we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord, it is an appropriate day to remember the promises of God that we acknowledged and celebrated at our baptisms. Through water and the Spirit, God names and claims us as beloved ones. Our response is one of love – love of God, love of God’s people, and love of all of God’s creation.

During the season after Epiphany, rather than begin our services with confession, we will begin with a Thanksgiving for Baptism. On this day of the Baptism of our Lord, we celebrate a Remembrance of Baptism and begin with a blessing for the waters of baptism.

Remembrance of Baptism

May the baptismal waters continue to refresh, cleanse and renew us, so that blessed by this water today, we may always be bathed in the waves of God’s love.

Blessing of the Water: *Making Waves*¹

We look to you, Wave-maker, as we admire all the wonders of the universe:
where water, air, earth and fire all make waves as they reflect your glory.
 We look to you, Wave-rider, as we remember the rocky road,
the ups and downs of the route you took to Jerusalem.
 We look to you, Wave-enhancer, as we join the cosmic dance,
whirl and pirouette, waltz, tango, and jive with your Spirit in us.
 We look to you, the Holy Three in One, as we bless this water,

¹ *Wild Goose Big Book of Liturgies*. Volume 2. Adapted from *One for the Baptiser All-age resources for baptisms and Baptisms (the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus)* written by Janet Lees, p.30-31. Compilation © The Iona Community
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knowing that you flow through it as you flow in us.

+ In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

Baptismal Blessing

Bless us with this water.

May we, like Jesus, live wet:

wet from the waters of chaos breaking over the earth;

wet from the waters of baptism breaking over our bodies;

wet from the living water breaking over our lives.

Bless us in earth, air and fire, but most of all bless us in water,

that anointed by you, the Life-giver, we may follow the way of Jesus.

In the name of our + Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

#456 Gathering Hymn “*Baptized in Water*”

1. **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.**
2. **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.**
3. **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.**

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.**

Call to Worship*

Come to the river of life.

Listen for the words of love.

Come to the waters of grace.
Receive the gift of acceptance.
 Come to the river of love,
for all are welcome here.

Prayer of the Day*

Loving and caring God, you call us to embrace our identity as your beloved, to let this identity shape our worship, and our very lives. In trust, we open ourselves during this time of worship, that we might receive your transforming Spirit, and be touched by your never-ending love. Help us embrace our identity in you – that the world will know we are yours. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

In the reading from Isaiah, we hear that 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.

But here is my servant, the one I uphold; my chosen, who brings me delight. I've put my spirit upon you; you will bring justice to the nations. You won't cry out or shout aloud or make your voice heard in public. You won't break a bruised reed; you won't extinguish a faint wick,
 but you will surely bring justice.

You won't be extinguished or broken until you have established justice in the land. The coastlands await your teaching.

God says—the one who created the heavens,
 the one who stretched them out,
 the one who spread out the earth and its offspring,

the one who gave breath to its people and life to those who walk on it—I, your God, have called you for a good reason.

I will grasp your hand and guard you, and give you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations, to open blind eyes, to lead the prisoners from prison, and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.

I am your God; that is my name; I don't hand out my glory to others
or my praise to idols.

The things announced in the past—look—they've already happened,
but I'm declaring new things.

Before they even appear, I tell you about them.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

In this reading from Acts, 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.

Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. Rather, in every nation, whoever worships God and does what is right is acceptable to God. This is the message of peace God sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: Jesus is Saviour of all! You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. We are witnesses of everything Jesus did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed Jesus by hanging him on a tree, but God raised Jesus up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with Jesus after God raised him from the dead. Jesus commissioned us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about Jesus that everyone who believes receives forgiveness of sins through Jesus' name."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

#715 Gospel Acclamation “Christ, Be Our Light” (v.2 & refrain)

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow’r to save us. Make us your living voice.

Refrain

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:13-17

In this reading from Matthew, we hear about Jesus being baptized by John before Jesus begins his ministry. Jesus is touched by the Spirit and identified publicly as God’s child.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him. John tried to stop Jesus and said, “I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?”

Jesus answered, “Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill God’s justice.” So John agreed to baptize Jesus. When Jesus was baptized, and was coming up out of the water, the sky suddenly opened up and Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and hovering over him. With that, a voice from the heavens said, “This is my own son, my Beloved, on whom my favour rests.”

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

#453 Hymn of the Day “Baptized and Set Free”

1. We are people created, chosen by God.
Then we’re washed ever gently, in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more. Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing and wholeness and more.
2. We are fed and we’re nourished, filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed.

- For whatever the need, God is greater indeed:
endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need.
3. We are nourished by water, all living things,
and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home, may your presence be known:
precious river, everflowing, now carry us home.
 4. Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free! From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water, baptized and set free!

A Creed² – For the Baptism of Our Lord

I believe in God who speaks through the prophets
and lifts our gaze up to high and beautiful paths and peaks.
I believe in Christ Jesus,
free of corruption yet willingly numbered among the sinners,
baptized in the waters of the Jordan.
I believe in the Spirit who rested on Jesus like a dove,
and who inspired him with such love
as the world has not seen before or since.
I believe that there is no human ability that cannot be enflamed,
and no weakness that cannot be used by Christ to the praise of God.
I believe that this believing is a gift from God,
not to be used for self-gratification
but for the building up of God's church and for humble service the world.
I believe in myself as a beloved child of God,
the recipient of a healing grace.
With the help of God,
I will attempt to live my belief all the days of my life,
and by God's grace, dwell in God's house forever. Amen!

Prayers of Intercession³

² Written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home page.

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocA/10BAPTIS.htm> (adapted)

³ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources#texts>

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

A brief silence.

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving, ill, or in hospital. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, continue to empower the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for all who are travelling and those who are homebound. 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. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Offering Prayer

Generous God, **all that we are, all that we will become, and all that we have is from you. As we give thanks for these gifts of money, and all the gifts you have given us, we do so responding to your voice – a voice that calls us beloved, and precious, and honoured. Amen.**

Communion Liturgy

May the God of glory be with you!

And also with you.

People of God, offer your hearts to God.

We give them to the One who loves us and calls us beloved.

Sing songs of praise and joy, children of God.

We lift our voices to the One who journeys with us through the waters of baptism and who feeds us at the table of hope.

With the waters of baptism reminding us of your love for us, we lift our praises to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star, Jesus 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 Jesus revealed your glory. And so with the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, We lift our voices in joy and hope:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in your name.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

Eucharistic Prayer⁴

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the light and life 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 light,

⁴ *With One Voice: Leaders Edition*, Eucharistic Prayer C – The Season of Epiphany, p.67. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress Minneapolis.

shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In that same night, in which he was betrayed,
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, Jesus took the cup,
Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering Christ's baptism, we recall his life and ministry,
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 Jesus Christ.
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Communion Distribution

Communion Hymn “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” #490 (v.1-2)

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending comes full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heav’nly food.

Baptism Blessing

I am a child of God, + marked with the sign of the cross, loved, forgiven and never alone. Thanks be to God for God’s baptismal promises to us! Amen.

Communion Blessing

May the love and forgiveness of God, that is present in this meal of bread and wine, strengthen you and nourish you in your journey of faith, confident in God’s unconditional love for you.

Prayer after communion⁵

O Lord, you look upon us in love and refresh our souls through the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out, reflecting the light of your grace and mercy and fill you with joy and peace. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing⁶

May the blessing of the three-in-one God be yours.
May the Creator who holds the Earth as an artist holds brush and palette
fill your imagination
so that you always find the world inspiring and wonderful.
May Jesus bless you with discomfort at injustice and oppression.
May the Spirit bless you with hope
poured out like water and flowing as the river.
May God in whose being beauty shines on you
journey with you.

⁵ From *Sundays & Seasons*, © 2012 Augsburg Fortress, p. 55.

⁶ Posted on Third Space. <http://third-space.org.uk/>

God says to you, "you are my beloved,
Be blessed this day and always."

+ In the name of our Creator, Healer, and Comforter. Amen

#445 Sending Hymn *"Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"*

1. **Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.**
2. **We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.**
3. **Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!**

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve God through word and deed.

Thanks be to God!

Sources: Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from Common English Bible (CEB).

Those parts of this worship service marked with an asterisk (*) are adapted from:

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