

# Welcome to Bethania Lutheran Kirke



## Baptism Of Our Lord

January 12, 2025

9:30 a.m.

4120 Wright Avenue, Racine, WI 53405 (262)632-7267

**Order of Worship**  
**for**  
**Sunday, January 12, 2024**

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS**

**GATHERING**

*(Please rise )*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Our God is a God of power and strength!

**C: God has created each of us  
with tender care.**

P: Our God is a God of majesty and awe!

**C: God walks with each of us  
every step of the way.**

P: Our God is a God of glory and wonder!

**C: God loves each of us  
with tenderness and passion.**

P: Our God calls us each by name.

**C: God calls each of us  
to unite in worship together!**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

P: Let us pray,

**C: Holy God of glory and majesty, you have called us by name. We pray in this moment for the courage and the strength to answer your call. As we open our ears to hear the story of your Son's baptism, open our hearts also, that we may experience again the renewing power of rebirth in the Holy Spirit. Inspire us in this time of worship, that we may claim our own identity as your beloved children. We pray in the name of our brother, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN**

" When Jesus Came to Jordan" #647

*With One Voice—Blue Hymnal*

### **SALUTATION**

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

**C: And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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)*

## WORD

**OUR FIRST LESSON** is from the book of Isaiah, chapter 43, verses 1 through 7.

*Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.*

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;

<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— <sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**OUR SECOND LESSON is from the book of Acts;**  
chapter 8, verses 14 through 17.

*Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.*

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

L: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*(Please rise)*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*(WOV #783)*

We do not live by bread alone  
But by every word,  
That proceeds from the mouth of god  
Al-le-lu, Al-le-lu-ia

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 3rd chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL:** Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

*The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.*

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

## **MESSAGE**

*(Please rise)*



# HYMN OF THE DAY -

“ Baptized In Water” #693  
*With One Voice—Blue Hymnal*

## PRAYER SONG

(WOV #772 )

O Lord, hear my prayer,  
O Lord, hear my prayer:  
when I call, answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer,  
O Lord, hear my prayer:  
come and listen to me.

## PRAYERS

P: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

P: You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans . Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery *especially* Jeff & Sue O., Bonnie, Anita, Grete L., Bettie, Sherry, Jean D., Brad L., Tom N., Cathi, Jim & Sharon L., Kim D, Melanie W., Ingaborg, and all those we name in our hearts. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve especially the family and friends of Mary Leaf. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER SONG (repeated)

(WOV #772)

O Lord, hear my prayer,  
O Lord, hear my prayer:  
when I call, answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer,  
O Lord, hear my prayer:  
come and listen to me.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

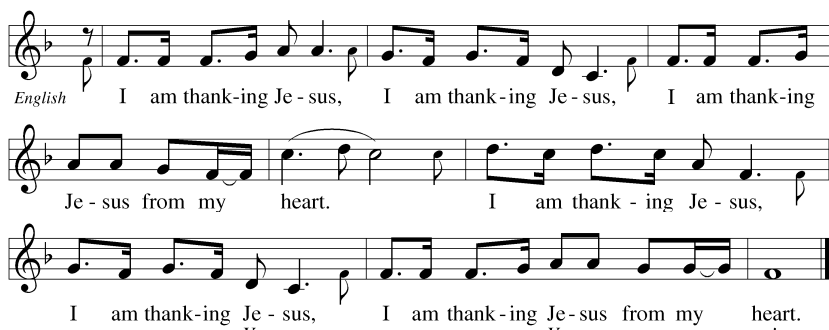
As you greet those around you, look at each person and offer these words from Isaiah: "You are precious in God's sight."

C: "You are precious in God's sight."

*(Shaking of hands and sharing the peace with others around you.)*

## OFFERTORY

(TFF#286)



English I am thank-ing Je - sus, I am thank-ing Je - sus, I am thank-ing  
Je - sus from my heart. I am thank - ing Je - sus,  
I am thank-ing Je - sus, I am thank-ing Je - sus from my heart.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:  
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always.

**C: Amen**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAL**

P: Christ be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to God.**

P: Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

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

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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 in remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
And gave it for all to drink, saying;  
This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you  
And for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Reaching out to one another let us join our hands and hearts together in the prayer that our Lord taught us to pray:

**C: 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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, eat this meal of gladness.  
All are welcome

*(Please be seated)*

## **SHARING THE MEAL**

*For in person, come up the center aisle, receive your communion wafer, carefully dip your wafer into the wine. If grape juice/ covid safe is preferred let the assistant know.*

*For at home using plain bread/crackers and wine/grape juice.*

## **COMMUNION HYMN -**

*" We are All Baptized in Christ Jesus " # 698*

*With One Voice—Blue Hymnal*

*(Please rise)*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

L: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Nourishing God,  
at this table you have refreshed us  
with holy gifts of food and drink.  
Strengthen us for service,  
and send us out to embody your good news  
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
In the name of Christ we pray,

**C: Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

P: The Spirit of the triune God  
✠ bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion,  
and send you in love.

**C: AMEN!**

## Down Galilee's Slow Roadways



1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on  
 2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;  
 3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.  
 it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.  
 We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,  
 The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:  
 But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.



but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.  
 "You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."  
 "You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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## **RECESSIONAL**

A: We follow the cross of Christ into the world.

(Congregation turns as the cross passes them—so they are facing the back of the church)

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

**TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Jeff Alderson

Communion Assistants: Brad Larsen & Jeff Alderson

Building Host, Cross Bearer, & Offering Presenter: Jeff Alderson

Coffee Hour: Altar Guild                      Altar Flowers: Open

Live Stream Tech: A Volunteer

Musician: William Mueller

**WORSHIP LEADERS NEXT WEEK (Sunday 1/19):**

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Julie Hansen

Communion Assistants: Julie Hansen & Vicki Thiery

Building Host, Offering Presenter: Ed Young

Coffee Hour: Open                      Altar Flowers: Open

Live Stream Tech: A Volunteer

Musician: William Mueller



Jeff & Sue O., Bonnie, Anita, Grete L., Bettie, Sherry,  
Jean D., Brad L., Tom N., Cathi, Jim & Sharon L.,  
Kim D., Melanie W., Ingaborg, family and friends of  
Mary Leaf.



ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

**SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 2024**

**Following Worship in the Hearth Room**

# The Calendar....

Sunday, January 12, 2025 - Baptism of Our Lord

**9:30a.m. . -Worship In Person & on Facebook Live**

**10:30a.m. – Coffee Hour**

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

10:00am to 2:00p.m. —Thread By Thread OPEN

Friday, January 17, 2025

8:00am to 3:00p.m. —RUSD Fell. Hall

Sunday, January 19, 2025—Second Sunday After Epiphany

**9:30a.m. . -Worship In Person & on Facebook Live**

**10:30a.m. – Coffee Hour**

*Note: The church office is closed for health reasons unless otherwise noted.*