

**LIGHTING OF CANDLES, WELCOME, RINGING OF THE BELLS****THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN "*This is the Spirit's Entry Now*" ..... #448

**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**

**C: 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. Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7**

<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." Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 29**

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;

**worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

**4The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**<sup>6</sup>the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**<sup>8</sup>The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

**<sup>10</sup>The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup>O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

**SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17**

<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. Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

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

<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." The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY "Crashing Waters at Creation".....#455**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made. By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be

fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need (*especially*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace. Comfort us in grief and release us from fear. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**PEACE** (*You may greet others with God's peace and say "Peace be with you" or similar words.*)

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY SONG "GIVE THANKS"

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His Son. And now let the weak say, I am strong, let the poor say, I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks. Give thanks.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Lead us into your kingdom, and teach us to pray. 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.**

## BLESSING

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name,  $\pm$  bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "*Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized*".....#304

## **SONG OF PEACE**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

January Expected Expenses: \$ 3,600  
Offering Received in January to Date: \$588  
**Offering Still Needed to Cover January Expenses: \$ 3,012**

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### **In Our Prayers**

Prayers for Luke Makings, Steven Kidder, Nichole Centa, Sue & Norman Kenitzer, Lloyd Crews, Zach Griffith, and Harley & Janice Ernst.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next week is the annual meeting of the congregation. This is an important part of our church and we hope to have a good representation of our congregation **January 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.** Bring a dish or two to share and stay for the potluck luncheon following the meeting.

**Celebration and Memories of Sonja Walek** A reception honoring Sonja Walek will be held today, Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in Radloff Hall. Please plan to attend and bring memories to share. Light refreshments will be served.

**Anxious About Nothing Bible Study** will take place at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer this afternoon, January 9<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 4:00 p.m.