CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 17th, 2021—10 a.m.

The Water turns to Wine



140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661
www.christlutheransc.ca

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Church Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email: Judy Mason, chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca
BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPHIPANY

<u>Prayer:</u> Almighty and eternal God, Governor of all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people, and grant us Your peace in our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Musician: Susanne Anderson **Readers:** Howard Bogusat

Sunday School Epiphany 1: https://youtu.be/KJwxWUvSjuA

Precious Moments: Baby Jesus' Temple Visit - https://youtu.be/aYQa2a2B1EM

Children's Message: https://youtu.be/w_eODF3rlo4

<u>OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES</u> to the family and friends of Doug Schwenker who passed away Jan. 10th, 2020. We pray for all the family and those who are grieving that they may be comforted in their sorrow through Jesus Christ our Lord and the victorious and certain hope of the resurrection. May they feel Christ's peace.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Mark 2: 18-22 Wed.: Matt. 19: 3-9 Friday: John 1: 15-18 Tuesday: Mark 3: 1-6 Thurs: Matt. 5: 17-26 Saturday: Acts 7: 35-40; 51-53

<u>LWMLC/Mary Martha "Meeting"</u>: January 19th will be a special email sent out. We hope that you will enjoy it. God's richest blessings during these difficult times.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4: 6-7

Our God, is a God of hope and strength, even during these times.

<u>The Lutheran Hour</u>: Hear God's Word at the click of a button on Lutheran Hour webpage or on their super convenient app! (Just hold your "Ctrl" button down and click box to follow the link)

LISTEN NOW >>

DOWNLOAD THE APP >>

LHM—all info.—www.lhmcanada.org

LISTEN TO THE LUTHERAN HOUR: tune in to WDCX 99.5FM or 970AM.

<u>Sunday, January 24th:</u> "Why Jesus Told Parables" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Jesus' parables draw His followers out of the crowd and into the circle of His disciples. (Mark 4)

The Canadian sermons are available for listening on-line on LLL website (www.lll.ca/radio-tv-and-podcasts)

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC:

it's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when in-person services are not available.

1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at: http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation,

275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3 Attn: Darryll Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church, 140 Russell Ave.

St.Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA:

Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church. Just visit:

https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pageId=donation-edit&categoryId=10972 select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ). This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.



The Canadian Lutheran November/December 2020

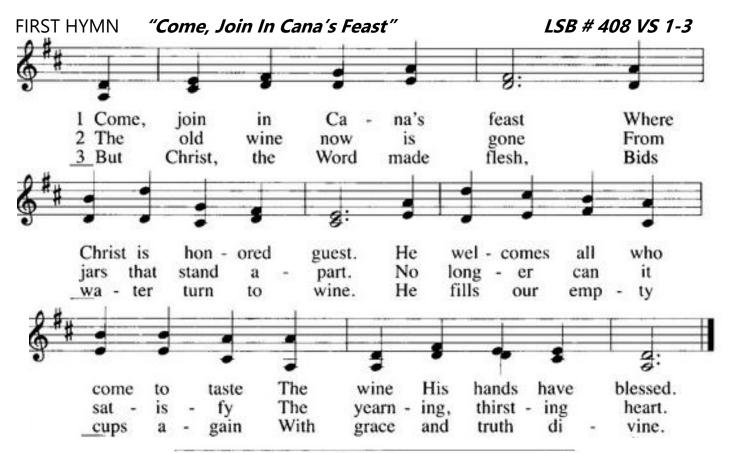
To Read the newest copy of "The Canadian Lutheran", press Ctrl & then click to open and follow link.

Service of the Word

THE 2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Bread of Life Creative Worship setting

January 17, 2021



As Jesus revealed His glory in the miraculous sign at Cana, so does He now give Himself in the miraculous sign of His body and blood.

FRANCONIA SM

Text: Copyright © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Public domain

John 2:1-11: Rev. 19:7-9; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

Text: Herman G, Stuempfle, Jr., b. 1923
Tune: Harmonischer Lieder Schatz, Frankfurt, 1738; adapt, William H, Havergal, 1793–1870. Setting: composite

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

O God our Father, since You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son, we confess our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, our reluctance to bear the cross:

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Forgive our poverty of worship, our neglect of fellowship and the Sacraments of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in Your service, our imperfect stewardship of Your gifts:

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Forgive us that so little of Your love has reached others through us, that we have been thoughtless in our judgements, hasty in condemnation, grudging in reconciling, unwilling to help all in need:

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Have mercy on us, O God:

According to Your never-ending love, blot out our sins, wash us through and through from sinful stains, creating clean hearts in us, with new and right spirits. Amen.

With mercy and compassion, our Father in Heaven saves you. The Light of the promised Holy Spirit guides your feet into the way of peace. And so in the place of Jesus Christ and by His Holy Command, I forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SPOKEN KYRIE Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for ev er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa-ther's splen-dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be-fore you; here on earth our songs we raise. Hear our prayer; re-store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand. For the peace that we in-her-it, glo-ry be to God on high!

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you:

And also with you.

Let us pray: Gracious and Generous Father, we thank You for all the good gifts You lavishly pour out on us through the work of Your dear Son. Teach us to enjoy all that You have given us to the full, and bring us at last to feast with you in eternal joy at the Wedding Supper of Jesus Christ, in Whose name we pray, Who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE SCRIPTURES

The Old Testament: Exodus 33: 12-23

Moses said to the Lord, 'See, you have said to me, "Bring up this people"; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, "I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight." Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.' He said, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.' And he said to him, 'If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.' The Lord said to Moses, 'I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name.' Moses said, 'Show me your glory, I pray.' And he said, 'I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, "The Lord"; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But', he said, 'you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.' And the Lord continued, 'See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.' This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

[St. Paul writes:] Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

My Word that goes out of My mouth (says the Lord):

it will not return to me empty,

but will do what I desire and achieve my purposes. Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel

St. John 2: 1-11

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 2nd chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

https://youtu.be/_X80FLKkSKQ

- Water You turned into wine Opened the eyes of the blind There's no one like you None like you
- 2. Into the darkness You shine
 Out of the ashes we rise
 There's No one like you
 None like you

Chorus: Our God is greater, our God is stronger God You are higher than any other Our God is Healer, awesome in power Our God, Our God

Bridge: And if Our God is for us, then who could ever stop us?

And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?

And if Our God is for us, then who could ever stop us?

And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?

What can stand against?

Chorus: Our God is greater, our God is stronger God You are higher than any other Our God is Healer, awesome in power Our God, Our God

> And if Our God is for us, then who could ever stop us? And if our God is with us, then what can stand against? And if Our God is for us, then who could ever stop us? And if our God is with us, then what can stand against? What can stand against?

MESSAGE: John 2:1-11 + "Sign, Sign, Ev'rywhere A Sign!" (sermon copy attached)

THE PRAYERS

RESPONSIVE PETITIONS

In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the Holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who labour, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

We pray especially for all who are hurting ...[specific petitions offered now...]: let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord. Have mercy.

Blessed Lord God, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Help us so that we may hear, read, mark, learn and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your Holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Who lives and reigns with You, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in 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 is not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Let us bless our Lord.

Praise be to God.

The Almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, Son + and the Holy Spirit, bless, protect and keep you always.

Amen.

LAST SONG

"The Trumpets Sound"

[Tune: I Know That My Redeemer Lives]

The Trumpets Sound, The Angels Sing
The Feast Is Ready To Begin
The Gates Of Heaven Are Open Wide
And Jesus Welcomes You Inside

Tables Are Laden With Good Things
Oh Taste The Peace And Joy He Brings
He'll Fill You Up With Love Divine
He'll Turn Your Water Into Wine

The Hungry Heart He Satisfies
Offers The humble Paradise
Now Hear All Heav'n And Earth Applaud
Bountiful Goodness Of The Lord

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Rev. Todd Hoeffs EPIPHANY 2

Scripture: St. John 2:1-11

Title: "Sign, Sign, Everywhere A Sign"

January 17, 2021

Signs. They're all around us. Road signs. Danger signs. Life signs. God signs. Signs can be difficult to see. Even harder to read. But in life we're usually looking for signs.

I first recognized my need for eyeglasses during my seminary years. Driving at night, looking for streets signs and I could barely read the words.

Sometimes we need help interpreting the meaning of signs in life. The season of Epiphany, which means "appearance", reveals signs of God's activity on earth in Jesus Christ. He's the best sign. The end of humanity's ancient waiting for a divine way out of sin's dark shadow.

Scripture tells us that Gentiles seek wisdom but Jews seek signs.

Israel as a nation constantly looked for signs of God's active presence among them. Not always seeing the signs for what they pointed towards, unfortunately many generations lost sight of the promise of hope in a Saviour.

Archaeologists digging up ancient ruins in the Middle East found synagogues depicting mosaics of religious imagery intermingled with signs of the zodiac.

As the Israelites walked closer to the close of the Old Testament era, looking for signs and seeing none, they grabbed on to what they could see and know. Remember, the time leading up to Christ was marked by 400 years of prophetic silence.

Signs hold no magic, no special crystal ball powers. Signs point to something greater, better than the sign itself. Like when you're driving and recognize a yield sign. Or the sign pointing the way as two lanes of road merge into one, avoiding road construction.

God's signs always show that a better way is coming. John the Baptizer himself was a sign, preparing the way for Jesus to come. John would decrease in importance and Jesus would increase.

So at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, Jesus reveals His 1st sign. Arriving on the 3rd day. An important demarcation of time.

Recall the creation story. In Genesis on the 3rd day of creation, the Lord God separated the water from the land, the rains I the sky from the landscape beneath. He made the earth sprout with fruit trees and leafy plants. Flowers and bushes and grasses. Vines and grapes. All this God called good.

Jesus is re-creating a new and vibrant life. An abundant life. A growing life of wine and celebration. Life happens on the $3^{\rm rd}$ day.

At an ancient Jewish wedding, the 3rd day is but the half way mark for fun and merry-making.

So creating good wine at this wedding on the 3rd day is no small sign. Its big. Its pointing ahead to a greater wine. Better than ordinary sipping wine. Stronger and richer than Passover wine. Wine that is also Blood. Jesus' Blood.

For Jesus is Son of God and Son of Man. Divine and human. Not only creating a sign showing something better, AS Jesus IS the best sign. He is the GREATEST of all signs.

Aged Simeon, holding onto baby Jesus for dear life, told mother Mary in the temple that her son would be the SIGN spoken against. Many will be put at odds with Him. Many would trust their own foolishness in the face of His wisdom. The religious order will cling onto their own version of signs and neglect Jesus as God's sign of salvation on earth.

Strange, because Jesus' signs on earth are meant to point to something better. Not to give faith, but to strengthen faith, to reassure believers of what God's can do among His people. For God gives us faith to see His work, His Word, His grace, His signs, working in our midst.

For us, even better good news happens on the 3rd day! Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the 3rd day, having been crucified for the life of the world.

And He becomes the 1st fruits of new life to rise from the dead, inaugurating an entire line of faithful from then to today and until the last day for all who die in faith rise anew in Him.

Jesus is the seed Who went down into the earth and died, and in dying, He bears the fruit of many saved souls in Him.

For if God sent Christ to earth just to help us out, be nice to us, show us a way but not make a way for us, we'd be without hope. We'd be people without the guaranteed promise of eternal life in Heaven and forgiveness on earth now. We'd still be waiting for some kind of sign to appear.

And what we receive in Christ is total and complete restoration, total and full forgiveness, abundant life and a way out of our overgrown, rebellious ways.

We no longer need signs. Although the church has been given Sacraments, which for centuries the early Christian believers called "signs". Great mysteries serving the faith to countless believers. Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, Absolution and the fellowship of all the believers. Signs of God's gracious love and access to His storehouse of grace.

But, we still look for signs. Usually big and glaring - lit up like the Vegas strip. And sometimes God will give us signs. Like when a piece of a wise Bible verse runs through your head at an unexpected moment. We forget that we have the blessed memory of God's goodness in our minds and hearts.

Like when we look back over our lives of faith, and there are times we think: "oh, yeah, God's work this way then, and in the same way at this time, and years after worked in my life to rescue me this way again...." And on and on, signs of God's gracious activity in our lives continues. We're often surprised at this—but why would God change? Why would Jesus act differently with us? Why are we afraid that God's not there? At desperate times when we've run away God's remained faithful and true. Why would Jesus not create something good out of such a bad life circumstance. What people mean for evil God brings about for our good.

Good, because Jesus is not idle. Even as Jesus waited for Mary to ask Him about the wine running dry at the wedding. A huge middle eastern no no. A small town disgrace. Mary knows He'll DO SOMETHING, intervene, help out, even though Jesus tells her "it's none of His business." HIS HOUR HAS NOT YET COME. More signs need to be seen. The stage isn't set.

Jesus is far removed from His HOUR. When His Blood will abundantly flow down His nail pierced hands, drip down His dislocated arms and onto the wood of the cross, cleansing the mercy seat of the temple, as the curtain of separation is torn in two from top to bottom. Only God could do that. He Who drank not a drop of wedding wine would alone drink the bitter cup of suffering on the cross into death for us and the world. That's going to happen. But its not time yet.

So Jesus creates His 1st sign. New, better, tastier overflowing wine. He'll overcome the wedding stress by restoring joy.

Using huge water jugs filled up to the brim reserved for ritual washing and creating the best vintage ever drank. What good news. Cheap wine is given out at the end but Jesus has saved the BEST for last.

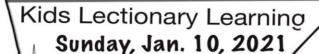
That's what we get, JESUS' best at our last. When we're at the end of our rope Jesus is our best. When we've come to the end of the road, Jesus is our best. Giving us His best, His own self.

If you think water and wine here resemble Baptism and Communion, you're seeing the signs for what they are. Creating and sustaining your faith. Giving you a life-line when your life seems overwhelming. Your baptism into Jesus' life is the something better. Your time with God at the rail eating and drinking the Wedding Feast of Jesus' Body and Blood is the something better. This is the reason Jesus' made new abundant wine. This is fruit of Jesus' cross, that you can access His grace and mercy and new life.

And now you are His signs. You bring the face and hands and feet of Christ into your world. People will see the work of God in our lives and the presence of Christ we bring into life situations. A peace, a joy, a contentedness, a way to explain signs from God in the light of His Word and kept promises. Even as we walk in a world more intrigued with celebrating the self or taken over with countless worries and petty issues – we are there as signs of Jesus' loving presence.

Just as Jesus' disciples believed in Him after His 1st sign, through the working of the Holy Spirit, you and me and others will also believe in Him. Trust in Him. Because God still cares enough for the people on this earth ensuring we as the church not only know the Gospel of Jesus but believe it and live it.

As signs pointing to something better. Making us ready for His Wedding Feast every day. Amen.



Genesis I:1-5 Romans 6:1-11 Mark I:4-11

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

- Romans 6:4 (ESV)

WILDERNESS
HEAVEN
WATER
SINS
BAPTIZING
SPIRIT
JOHN
SON
JORDAN
RIVER
HAIR
SANDALS
HONEY
DOVE

YETZRDWHAIRHJMCRCXLIHEAVENTMGBNSROVTLTJRIYXEQOLFHEFDPJOMNKWAWONKRYBNDBWBRPYMIAQHONEYECJOHNAULSANDALSPELEAAVTDHBAPTIZINGSSYEOENWQXPJBUCIEPXJTRETDJORDANDTIQJJNBQTLXYMSXONRXZCEXJKNWYAIKVYIRTPSTWNSHBEGNEATASHSDCONBIMKGBWATERCXNGC

TODAY WE
CELEBRATE THE GIFT
OF CREATION, LIFE,
AND BAPTISM.

Thank you Lord, that Solution Jesus came to us, and that You give us the gift of baptism.

