

# THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 9th, 2022



## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon  
**Bulletin Announcements:** Please send to [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca).  
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

<b>Pastor:</b>	Pastor Todd Hoefts	(289-362-0113)	<a href="mailto:pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com">pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com</a>
<b>Parish Assistant:</b>	Louise Gondosch	(905-329-8579)	<a href="mailto:parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca">parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca</a>
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**Prayer:** Father in heaven, as at the baptism in the Jordan River You once proclaimed Jesus Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit, grant that all who are baptized in His name may faithfully keep the covenant into which they have been called, boldly confess their Saviour, and with Him be heirs of life eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Children’s Message:** M&M Candies for the Epiphany – <https://youtu.be/7UdIxsLRzjo>

**Organist:** Mayumi Munoz

**Readers:** 9 a.m. — Chris Mason ; 11 a.m. – Gloria Meyer

**DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: Mark 1: 1-8	Wed.: John 1: 35-42	Friday: Heb. 2: 14-18
Tuesday: Mark 2: 9-15f	Thurs: Matt. 4: 12-17	Saturday: John 5: 19-24

**WORSHIP NOTE:**

- A recording of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to YouTube – “Gathering the Scattered” at: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSq>).
- A PDF version of the order of service for each Sunday will also be posted on our church website: [christlutheransc.ca](http://christlutheransc.ca).
- Archived videos of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to christlutheransc.ca – “Worship” page.

Any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<http://christlutheransc.ca/>), contact Judy Slingerland ([chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca)) or Pastor Todd ([pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com](mailto:pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com)). or phone the church office. May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** resumes Sunday January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL AGES** resumes January 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 - 10:45 am in the church basement, safely distanced. Materials are provided. We will be looking at our faith and how we witness, share, care and live as God's beloved in our communities in our challenging times. Please join us.

**YOUTH CATECHISM** will begin closer to March 2022.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM):** Friday, January 21st at 7:00 p.m. Please connect with Louise if you would like an invite.

**LUTHERAN CHURCH - CANADA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:**

Lutheran Young people from across Canada will be gathering together this **July 15-19, 2022 in Winnipeg, Manitoba**. The theme for the gathering is "IN NOT OF" from Philippians 3:20 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ." Information packages are available from Louise. Save the date, check out the website at <http://www.lccnyg.ca>, start following the Facebook and Instagram pages and check out this fun announcement from Pastor Glenn

Worcester <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68gXVYofMYY>

**LWMLC/MARY MARTHA SOCIETY** is pleased to invite all the women of the congregation to any or all of the following evenings. We look forward to the time when health and safety protocols will not be necessary, however, until that time, any public health Covid protocols will be in place for all of our meetings. The following is our program (subject to changes) until June:

Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>: 7 pm: - While we would rather meet in person, we will meet virtually on Zoom. Devotion, Distribution of funds from our bazaar. We will send an invitation to attend by email.

Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>: 7 pm: - Bible Study with Pastor Hoeffs

March 15<sup>th</sup>: 7 pm: - Speaker

April 19<sup>th</sup>: 7 pm: - Quilt Tying/Stamp Trimming

May 17<sup>th</sup>: 7 pm: - Bible Study

June 22<sup>nd</sup>: 5:30 pm - End of season Social and Dinner

"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Is. 40:31

\*\*\*\***To confirm your interest to attend, please call Lorraine or Carole (or email)**

**LWML-Canada, Ontario District, Niagara Zone**, is hosting our District Convention in St. Catharines at Grace Lutheran Church (accommodation at Niagara College) on June 9 and 10, 2022. More details will follow. If at all possible, please plan to attend. It is a wonderful time to get to know and renew friendships with our sisters in Christ from around the province! It is a time to focus on

**"Joy, Patience, Prayer"** which is the theme of the Convention. (Romans 12:12)

*Our Seminary Student Eduardo Farias and his wife Daniella will be our wonderful entertainment for Saturday evening!*

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all who helped in any way with our **2021 Bazaar**. In addition to those who made all the items for sale, we so greatly appreciated the many of you who placed orders or made donations. It is the way we earn money to donate to Missions, so we are thrilled to announce that this year we raised \$5,582.35. Those earnings came from the orders that were placed, the 2 days of the Craft Tables downstairs, and some donations. Along with that, the Silent Auction that Judy Mason ran online, raised \$1,391.00 giving us a grand total of **\$6,973.35** (*there was a slight mistake in the total listed last week – this is the correction*). We are so pleased and extremely grateful. Thanks be to God! At our LWML meeting in January, we will have the pleasure of "giving it all away", as we choose amounts and the various Missions to donate it to.

Thank you again for your help and support. Carole Pink

***May Jesus' light shine on you and renew your spirit in 2022!***

**2022 DONATION ENVELOPES** are available for pick up in your mailbox. If you don't have a mailbox, please check the table at the entrance to the sanctuary. If you have not been issued envelopes and would like some, or, you would like to be assigned a mailbox, please contact Karen at: [business.manager@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:business.manager@christlutheransc.ca) or the office at 905-685-8294.

**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 you are not comfortable attending service.

**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](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: Darryl 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:

<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.

*Creative Holy Communion*  
**THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**  
**The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany**  
January 9, 2022 + 9 AM Traditional

OPENING HYMN:

*“Blessed Assurance”*

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine –  
O what a foretaste of glory divine  
Heir of salvation purchase of God;  
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood;

*Chorus*

*This is my story this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
This is my story this is my song;  
Praising my Savior all the day long*

Perfect submission all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest  
Watching and waiting, looking above;  
filled with His goodness, lost in His love;

*Chorus*

*This is my story this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
This is my story this is my song;  
Praising my Savior all the day long*

CCLI Song # 22324 Fanny Jane Crosby | Phoebe Palmer Knapp © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain  
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CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

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

**Amen.**

You are my hiding place o Lord;

**you will save me from trouble.**

I sing aloud of your salvation,

**because you protect me.**

Then I confessed my sins to you;

**I did not conceal my wrongdoings.**

Let us confess our sins together, as children of our Heavenly Father:

O Gracious God,

**Our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and gift us with grace to grow more into the likeness and image of Your dear Son, our new born King and Saviour, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

Receive the forgiveness Christ Jesus Himself has won for you by His Passion, His death and resurrection. In the place of 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.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of David,

**Son of the living God, have mercy on us and give us Your peace. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE:

*“Glory to God”*

*[God is so good tune]*

**1. Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God, in the High--est.**

**2. God cares for me, God cares for me,  
God cares for me, He’s so good to me!**

**3. He sent us Christ, He sent us Christ,  
He sent us Christ, on a cross for me.**

**4. I praise His name, I praise His name, I  
praise His name, For He rose for me.**

*Velna Ledin, 1933 Public domain*

## GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

Loving Father, You proclaimed Jesus Christ as Your dear Son at His Baptism in the Jordan and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. May all who are baptized into Christ remain faithful in their calling to be Your children and inherit eternal life with Him. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE WORD

**Old Testament:** *Isaiah 43: 1-7*

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. 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. 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. 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. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; 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—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The New Testament:** *Acts of the Apostles 8:14-17*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Sung Gospel Verse:

"Holy Spirit, The Dove"

hymnary.orgLSB502

1 Ho - ly Spir - it, the dove sent from heav - en,  
Ev - er one with the One who is Three.  
From the Fa - ther You came, Words of peace to pro-claim,  
Come and com - fort us, speak ten - der - ly.  
You, the fra - grance of life we are seek - ing;  
Fill Your tem - ple, Your al - tar make clean.  
Joy - ous shel - ter of love, Gra - cious friend from a - bove,  
In Your care we are rest - ing, se - rene.

"Chrism" refers to the anointing of the baptized with oil to symbolize the Holy Spirit, whose powerful presence in Holy Baptism unites us to Christ's saving work. Setting available in hymn accompaniment edition.

Text: Philip W. Blycker, b. 1939; tr. Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955  
Tune: Philip W. Blycker, b. 1939

Text (Spanish) and tune: © 1977 Philip W. Blycker  
Text (English): © 2004 Stephen P. Starke; admin. Concordia Publishing House

SANTO ESPÍRITU  
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Matt. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; Titus 3:5-7; Rom. 8:26-27

**Holy Gospel:** *St. Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter:

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 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. 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.... Now when all the people were baptized [by John], and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 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.' This is the Gospel of the Lord:

**Praise to You, O Christ!**

**THE NICENE CREED:**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

**GOSPEL SONG:**

*"How Many Kings?"*

**Verse 1:**

**Follow the star to a place unexpected  
Would you believe after all we've projected  
A child in a manger  
Lowly and small the weakest of all  
Unlikeliest hero wrapped in His mother's  
shawl  
Just a child  
Is this who we've waited for 'cause**

**Because we believe**

**Gold for His honor and frankincense for His  
pleasure  
And myrrh for the cross He'll suffer  
Do you believe  
Is this who we've waited for**

**Bridge:**

**Only one did that for me ooh  
All for me ah ah ah  
All for me all for you (4X)**

**Chorus 1:**

**How many kings stepped down from their  
thrones  
How many lords have abandoned their homes  
How many greats have become the least for  
me  
And how many gods have poured out their  
hearts  
To romance a world that is torn all apart  
How many fathers gave up their sons for me**

**Chorus 2**

**How many kings stepped down from their  
thrones  
How many lords have abandoned their homes  
How many greats have become the least  
How many gods have poured out their hearts  
To romance a world that is torn all apart  
How many fathers gave up their sons for me  
Ending**

**Verse 2:**

**Bringing out gifts for the newborn Savior  
All that we have whether costly or meek**

**Only one did that for me oh  
All for me all for you**

## MESSAGE

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Gracious Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise that in Your mercy You brought us to baptism, and there gave us Jesus' holiness in exchange for our sin and impurity. Thank You for our parents who brought us up in the faith and to Your Holy House for the Word and Sacrament, thank You for those other people whom You used to bring us the Gospel, for our pastors and teachers in the faith. Heavenly Father:

**shine Your Light on us.**

We pray for all people, that the good news of Christ will be proclaimed and heard by all, and that many will believe and be baptized. To this end, send and support pastors, missionaries, teachers, and lay people able to give truthful and loving witness to Christ. Heavenly Father:

**shine Your Light on us.**

Have mercy on those in need, those who are struggling because of stress, continual Omicron virus concerns, violence and break-down, those who are suffering from harmful behaviour and hurting relationships. Heal, restore, and renew by Your Word and our witness. Heavenly Father:

**shine Your Light on us.**

We pray for the sick, those who are disabled, those in hospital, those facing death. Show them the light of the gospel, provide helpers and carers and medical resources, and heal both body and soul. Be with those among us who are sick or recovering from surgery, and in particular (*insert names*), and others whom we name in our hearts... (*brief silence*)...Heavenly Father:

**shine Your Light on us.**

Heavenly Father, you have shown us your love and salvation in the baptism of Your Son. Accept these our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you:

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

It is good and right and joyful, that we should all the time and in every place give You thanks to You, O Lord, Holy God: for You sent your only Son to appear among us as a man, and through him you have fully revealed the light of your presence to us. And so, with the church on earth and the whole company of Heaven, we praise Your name and join their never-ending song:

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

[Tune: "I'll Fly Away"]

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the last staff.

Ho -- ly Ho---ly Ho --- ly Lo—rd; God Of might;  
Glo - ry fills all earth and Heav'n -- Bless - ed is He!  
Sing, Ho—san--na ; in the High - est-- Heav'n;  
Blest the One who comes In His name; Bless - ed is He.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

We give thanks to you, O Lord God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling faithful Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be born from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from sin and all evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us into truth, out of waywardness into righteousness, out of death into life. May we may faithfully eat and drink of our Saviour and receive his life-giving treasure as He comes to us in His body and blood. Let us pray using His holy prayer:

**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.**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you. Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD

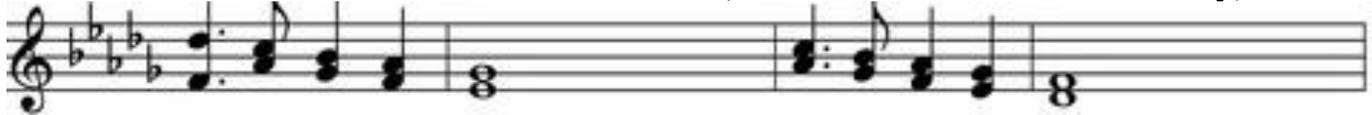
[Tune: I Surrender All]



O Lord Je-sus Christ the True Lamb; this world's sins You take a-way;



O Lord Je-sus Christ the True Lamb; this world's sins You take a-way;



Lord, have mercy now;

Christ, have mercy now.

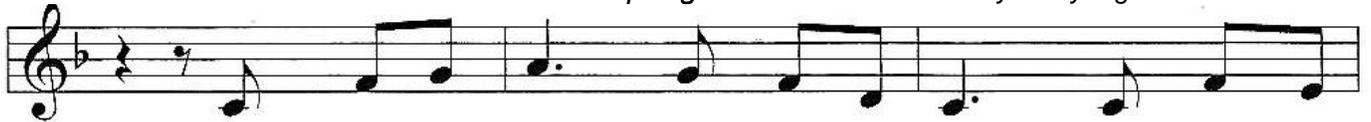


Lord, have mer -cy; Christ, have mer -cy; Give us now Your peace.

COMMUNION HYMN:

*"O Blessed Spring"*

[www.hymnary.orgLSB595](http://www.hymnary.orgLSB595)



1 O	bless-ed spring,	where Word and sign	Em - brace us
2 Through	sum-mer heat	of youth-ful years,	Un - cer - tain
3 When	au-tumn cools	and youth is cold,	When limbs their
4 As	win - ter comes,	as win - ters must,	We breathe our
5 Christ,	ho - ly Vine,	Christ, liv - ing Tree,	Be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine:	Here Christ en - joins	each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears,	Sus - tained by Christ's	in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold,	Then through us, warm,	the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust;	Still held in Christ,	our souls take
this blest mys - ter - y:	That Word and wa - ter thus re -	



be	A branch of this	life - giv - ing Tree.
rain,	The boughs will shout	for joy a - gain.
move	With gifts of beau -	ty, wis - dom, love.
wing	And trust the prom -	ise of the spring.
vive	And join us to	Your Tree of Life.

Setting available in hymn accompaniment edition.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
Tune: English

Text: © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien; admin. Augsburg Fortress  
Tune: Public domain

O WALY WALY  
L M

John 15:1-5; Gen. 2:9; Rev. 22:14

SONG OF SIMEON: "Let Your Servant Depart" [tune: Sweet By & By]

**Let your servant depart now in peace,  
For Your Word from of old is fulfilled,  
Your salvation my eyes now have seen,  
Long-prepared as it always has been.  
In Your light, you reveal, the world's promise and Israel's great joy!  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always may You be adored.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, as Christ Your Son manifested as our Saviour in the streams of the Jordan, so he is manifested for us again in the bread and the wine of this blest Holy Communion feast, and for this we thank and praise You. Through us may we make Him known to all people. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

BENEDICTION: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: "God Leads Us Along"

Verse 1:

In shady green pastures  
So rich and so sweet  
God leads His dear children along  
Where the water's cool flow  
Bathes the weary one's feet  
God leads His dear children along;  
Some thro' the waters  
Some thro' the flood  
Some thro' the fire  
But all thro' the blood  
Some thro' great sorrow  
But God gives a song  
In the night season  
And all the day long

Some thro' the fire  
But all thro' the blood  
Some thro' great sorrow  
But God gives a song  
In the night season  
And all the day long

Verse 3:

Though sorrows befall us  
And Satan oppose  
God leads His dear children along  
Through grace we can conquer  
Defeat all our foes  
God leads His dear children along

Verse 2:

Sometimes on the mount  
Where the sun shines so bright  
God leads His dear children along  
Sometimes in the valley  
In darkest of night  
God leads His dear children along  
Some thro' the waters  
Some thro' the flood

Some thro' the waters  
Some thro' the flood  
Some thro' the fire  
But all thro' the blood  
Some thro' great sorrow  
But God gives a song  
In the night season  
And all the day long

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**SERVICE NOTE:** Glory to God, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lamb of God and Song of Simeon adapted and arranged by Rev. Todd Hoefts based on common ecumenical liturgical texts 2021. Music notations from [www.hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org) website.

Lutheran Service Book Divine Service Setting Four

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

January 9, 2022 + 11 AM Traditional

OPENING HYMN:

*"When Christ's Appearing"*

*"On Jordan's Bank" Puer Nobis tune*

**When Christ's appearing was made known, King Herod trem--bled for his throne;  
But he who offers Heav'nly birth, seeks not the king-doms of the earth.**

**Within the Jor-dan's sac-red flood, the heavenly Lamb in meekness stood  
That he, of whom no sin was known, might cleanse his people from their own.**

**For this His glad epiphany, All glory un-to Je-sus be,  
Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit evermore.**

Words: Coelius Sedulius Public Domain. [www.lutheran-hymnal.com/lyrics](http://www.lutheran-hymnal.com/lyrics)

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

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

**Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:

God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.**

**Amen.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "Lord, have mer - cy on us; Christ, have mer - cy". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "on us; Lord, have mer - cy on us." The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.



1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,  
 3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and earth - ly peace we sing.  
 You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
 At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
 O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,  
 Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.  
 Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.  
 With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

#### GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

Loving Father, You proclaimed Jesus Christ as Your dear Son at His Baptism in the Jordan and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. May all who are baptized into Christ remain faithful in their calling to be Your children and inherit eternal life with Him. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### THE WORD

**Old Testament:** *Isaiah 43: 1-7*

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. 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. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. 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. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; 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—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The New Testament:** *Acts of the Apostles 8:14-17*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA & VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God. *John 20:31*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Holy Gospel:** *St. Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter:

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 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. 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.... Now when all the people were baptized [by John], and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 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.' This is the Gospel of the Lord:

**Praise to You, O Christ!**

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

*“Wash, O God, Your Sons & Daughters”*

*“Beach Spring”*

Wash, O God, your sons and daughters,  
where Your cleansing waters flow.  
Number them among your people,  
bless as Christ blest long ago.  
Weave us garments bright and sparkling;  
compass all with love and light.  
Fill, anoint us; send your Spirit,  
holy dove and heart's delight.  
Every day we need your 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.  
O 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!

Words: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 [www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/ray-ortlund/wash-o-god-](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/ray-ortlund/wash-o-god-)

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Gracious Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise that in Your mercy You brought us to baptism, and there gave us Jesus' holiness in exchange for our sin and impurity. Thank You for our parents who brought us up in the faith and to Your Holy House for the Word and Sacrament, thank You for those other people whom You used to bring us the Gospel, for our pastors and teachers in the faith. Heavenly Father:

**Shine Your Light on us.**

We pray for all people, that the good news of Christ will be proclaimed and heard by all, and that many will believe and be baptized. To this end, send and support pastors, missionaries, teachers, and lay people able to give truthful and loving witness to Christ. Heavenly Father:

**shine Your Light on us.**

Have mercy on those in need, those who are struggling because of stress, continual Omicron virus concerns, violence and break-down, those who are suffering from harmful behaviour and hurting relationships. Heal, restore, and renew by Your Word and our witness. Heavenly Father:

**shine Your Light on us.**

We pray for the sick, those who are disabled, those in hospital, those facing death. Show them the light of the gospel, provide helpers and carers and medical resources, and heal both body and soul. Be with those among us who are sick or recovering from surgery, and in particular (*insert names*), and others whom we name in our hearts... (*brief silence*)...Heavenly Father:

**shine Your Light on us.**

Heavenly Father, you have shown us your love and salvation in the baptism of Your Son. Accept these our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you:

**And also with you.**

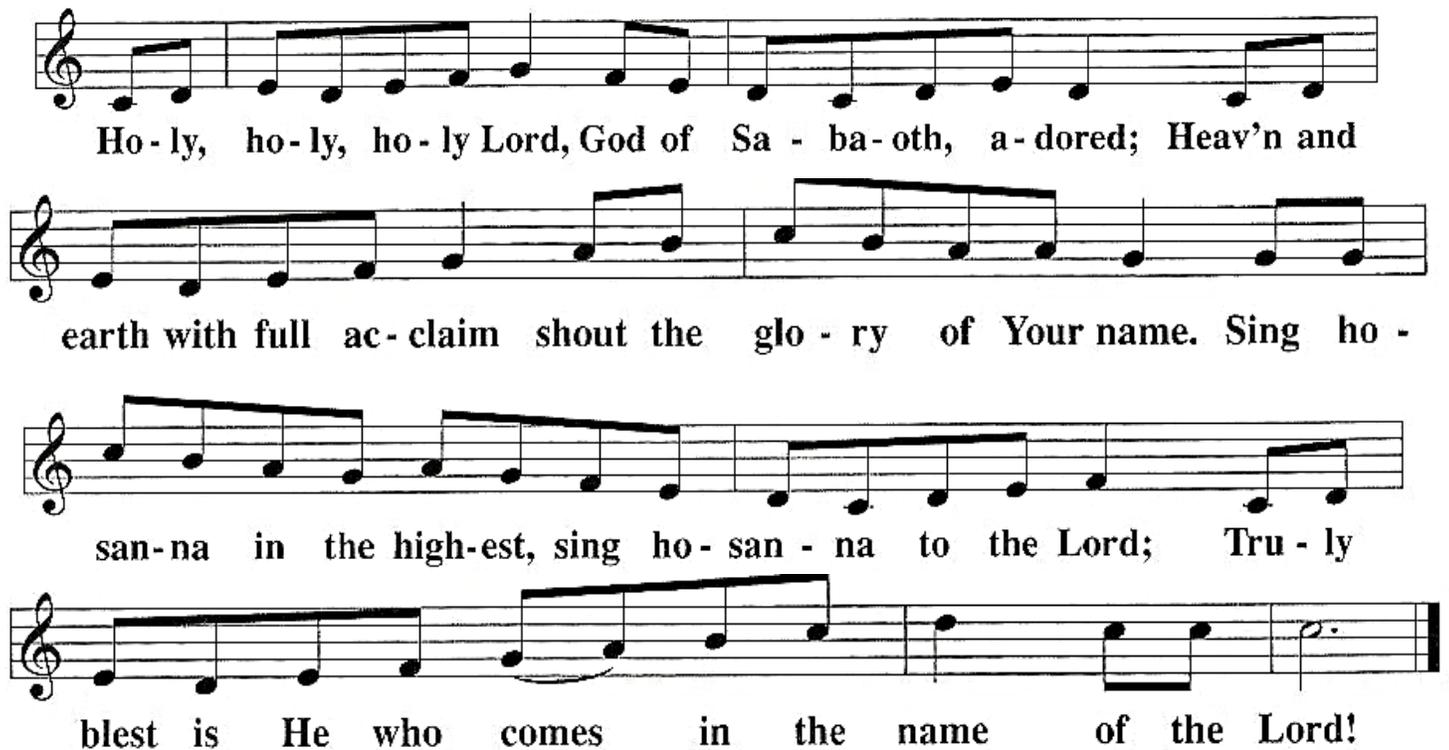
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right and joyful, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty Everlasting God: You sent your only Son to appear among us as a man, and through him you have fully revealed the light of your presence to us. And so, with the church on earth and the whole company of Heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of Sa - ba - oth, a - dored; Heav'n and  
earth with full ac - claim shout the glo - ry of Your name. Sing ho -  
san - na in the high - est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord; Tru - ly  
blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER:

**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.**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

## LAMB OF GOD:

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## COMMUNION HYMN:

*"The Infant Priest"*

*Tune: Rockingham Old*

1 The infant Priest was holy born  
For us unholy and forlorn;  
From fleshly temple forth came He,  
Anointed from eternity.

2 This great High Priest in human flesh  
Was icon of God's righteousness.  
His hallowed touch brought sanctity;  
His hand removed impurity.

3 The holy Lamb undaunted came  
To God's own altar lit with flame;

While weeping angels hid their eyes,  
This Priest became a sacrifice.

4 But death would not the victor be  
Of Him who hung upon the tree.  
He leads us to the Holy Place  
Within the veil, before God's face.

5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,  
As at the rail on bended knee  
Our hungry mouths from Him receive  
The bread of immortality.

6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,  
 A priestly food and priestly meat;  
 On sin-parched lips the chalice pours  
 His quenching blood that life restores.

7 With cherubim and seraphim  
 Our voices join the endless hymn,  
 And "Holy, holy, holy" sing  
 To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

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SONG OF SIMEON:

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

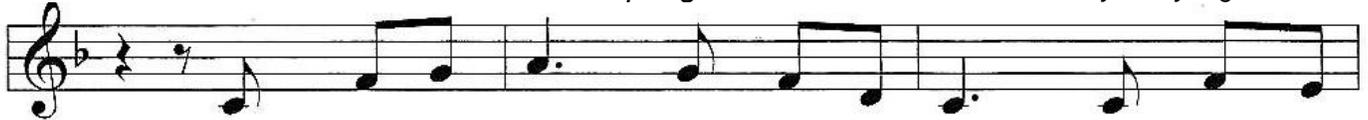
**BENEDICTION:**

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

*"O Blessed Spring"*

[www.hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org)LSB595



1 O	bless-ed spring,	where Word and sign	Em - brace us
2 Through	sum-mer heat	of youth-ful years,	Un - cer - tain
3 When	au-tumn cools	and youth is cold,	When limbs their
4 As	win-ter comes,	as win - ters must,	We breathe our
5 Christ,	ho - ly Vine,	Christ, liv - ing Tree,	Be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine:	Here Christ en - joins	each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears,	Sus - tained by Christ's	in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold,	Then through us, warm,	the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust;	Still held in Christ,	our souls take
this blest mys - ter - y:	That Word and wa - ter thus re -	



be	A branch of this	life - giv - ing Tree.
rain,	The boughs will shout	for joy a - gain.
move	With gifts of beau -	ty, wis - dom, love.
wing	And trust the prom -	ise of the spring.
vive	And join us to	Your Tree of Life.

*Setting available in hymn accompaniment edition.*

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
Tune: English

Text: © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress  
Tune: Public domain

O WALY WALY  
L M

*John 15:1-5; Gen. 2:9; Rev. 22:14*

**REV. TODD HOEFFS**

**Baptism of Jesus [Epiphany 1]**

**Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7**

**Title: "Takes A Lot Of Water To Wash Our Fears Away"**

**January 9, 2022**

Scripture is filled with direct messages from our God. So many mandates. Don't lie. Don't steal. Don't kill. Don't give false witness. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Love God with all you are and your neighbour as yourself. But the one message God gives more than any other is -- FEAR NOT. Don't be afraid appears hundreds of times in both the Old and New Testaments. Do you ever wonder why? Maybe fear and worry have a greater hold in our lives that we imagine? Even in our world fear and worry take centre stage. When you're afraid, you're not happy. When you're worried, you're not content nor confident. If fear rules your heart, there's no room for joy. If your guts are tied in knots of fear, the message of forgiveness of your sins as a child of God doesn't have room to grab hold of you and bring you peace. Fear grabs hold. Worry overshadows our thoughts and feelings very easily. We find ourselves tied up in knots. Those are knots in our stomach when we think about tomorrow's project or surgery or test results. Fear raises our blood pressure when we're concerned about our children, or whether we have enough money or time or if we've planned well enough for the next life venture. Fear exhausts our energy and weakens us. The Lord comes to release us from our fear. To those who are fearful and worried, He says, "Fear *not*." Seems so easy. It isn't. God knows that. And notice He doesn't say "stop worrying and do this..." Also, the Bible never says "There's nothing scary so you don't need to be scared." Life is scary. That, however, does NOT mean we need to be scared of *it*. Because – the message FEAR NOT is always followed by God's own active work for our good. "*Fear not. For I have redeemed you, you are Mine.*" That's secures you. You have an identity, You have His protection and You have purpose because of God's redeeming, saving action. When God is with us and in us we have nothing to fear. We only have reason to give thanks and be encouraged to persevere. Living without fear is both a reminder and as a continuous expected action. In other words, remain in a daily state of not letting fear rule your life. Do not fret over what will be. Trust in what is. We belong to God. That is living hope. Hope that is as simple as it is certain. Through ancient prophet Isaiah God began telling us all we need never be afraid – just by His own spoken and written word to us here -- He releases us from the entanglement of worry and fear. The nation of Israel lived in a constant state of fear. They worried about how God felt about them. After all, they doubted His goodness and turned to other gods. They lost everything that they expected would never change. The land given to Abram by God was now in the hands of their enemies. Babylon controlled them.

The great temple of Jerusalem, which stood for 350 years as the physical and spiritual center of their religious lives, was in rubble.

And with the temple gone, the regular priestly practice of sacrifice and offering on behalf of all the people had been disrupted, seemingly forever.

Their king descended from David was blinded after he witnessed his own children killed in front of him. With all those monstrous realities staring them in the face, one can understand how the exiled children of God lost faith in the One who made those promises; maybe God didn't exist for them? As much as they feared the present, they also feared the future. Would God help bring an end to this suffering? Many felt they earned this punishment. This kind of fear turned into bitterness, despair and forgetfulness of God. In this agonizing environment, Isaiah announces that this God, their God, lives and the enemy kings in fact have NO rule, even though it looks like they do. This God is "the One who created you...the One who shaped you..." (43:1a). God CREATED (*bara'* in Hebrew) The 1<sup>st</sup> word of action going back to Genesis 1:1—The God Who created you WILL rescue you in good time. God SHAPED/FORMED (*yatser*) The 2<sup>nd</sup> word of action in Genesis 2—This creative God is artistic, using a moistened lump of clay to form/shape each human being and animal.

God is not distant and disconnected; He is with us, intimately shaping us and sustaining us. Because BY HIS WORD, The promise of our Redeemer, In fact, our dear Saviour, was there as Isaiah spoke this -- Just as He arrived on earth generations later as a baby in Bethlehem's manger. Baby Jesus is the Redeemer Isaiah is describing. A redeemer from among their own people would come to save them and the entire world. Keep in mind, Babylon was embarrassing Israel as a nation and as a people. Redeeming them vindicates their captivity. Yes, they're suffering.

God is with them in their suffering. He justifies, supports and keeps them as His own. They feel alone. But they are not alone. That's the difference between fearful or faithful living. All of this sounds so familiar. Nearly 2 years of pandemic living, with restrictions added on again to our daily living. This make us worried that life with never be the same again, And that it might never even feel consistent again. Fear and worry make up almost everything we hear or see. Fear keeps us looking at all other options for remedies but never at God. Joy, happiness and contentment shrink away.

We choose worry because it makes us feel we can control it. We can't.

It only spins the problems round and round in our heads until nothing makes sense.

We can't hide, we can't run away, we can't be left alone. We can move forward in confident faith. We have a God Who keeps us going. We will make it through.

We will not be overcome because Christ our Redeemer has already overcome it all.

"When you pass through the waters, God is with you; the rivers will never overwhelm you. When you walk through fire, you will not be burned; the flame will not consume you" (43:2). These are the great moments of freedom – From the parted Red Sea

waters to the waters of our Baptisms... The great voice of God in the burning bush, the blazing Mt. Sinai, the pillar of fire at night for visibility—in water and fire God remained present with His people. In washing and cleansing In Sacrifice and ritual

In warmth of home and water to drink God intervened with real help--no matter the danger--as He is still so present and so very real today. Notice that our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, was not bound by fear and worry; Born as a human but without any sin or shortcoming. Never fearful to do what needed doing. The weight of the world in His hands, The government placed on His shoulders, So much saving work to do, Barriers to overturn, A ruined creation needing His transformative mercy and compassion. Approaching John at the Jordan River, about to enter into His earthly work of releasing ALL people from the bondage to sin and captivity to death, Jesus passes through the waters of His baptism. Satan waits to attack.

The Religious establishment will feel shock waves Making temple and synagogue life feel unnecessary. Terror lies ahead of Jesus. He doesn't need baptism; we do.

Jesus pollutes His perfect self with the sludgy sewer of human sin that the Jordan River represents. Jesus is standing up for Israel and for all nations. Even Egypt and Cush and Seba which enslaved God's people. All nations are drawn to Jesus' life giving work. God saved them once; Now He saves them and the entire world with Jesus.

He will heal

He will teach

He will correct

He will fulfill.

He will suffer.

He will die.

He will ask that a bitter cup of suffering pass Him by. He will make all things new by making His creation make a bloody mess of Him.

He will cry out forsaken by His own Father. He will finish it all.

Our sin, our fear, our death, our worry, all of it -- finished in Him.

We are baptized into all of this – We are re-created

We are re-shaped

We are redeemed,

We are called by name

We are God's.

We share His Son's Feast.

We are all welcome, all have a place to come and dine.

With Jesus, God is WELL PLEASED.

With us, baptized and given a life in Jesus, God is also WELL PLEASED.

Jesus has acted

Stood up for us.

Stands by us.

We are called by name. By His name. For His purpose.

We are His.

So --we FEAR NOT.

Amen.