

St. Mark 1:11

“You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 7, 2024

Holy Communion 11:00 am

Prelude

\*The Processional Hymn *Shall We Gather at the River* (ELW) No. 423

\*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) page 138

P: 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.**

\*The Kyrie (*sung response*) (ELW) page 138

P: ....., let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\*The Hymn of Praise *This is the Feast* (ELW) No. 140

\*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

**C: Heavenly Father, in Jesus' baptism You declared Him to be Your beloved Son and set Him apart as Your agent of grace for Your creation. May we who are baptized into His life also be sent as agents of grace in Your world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

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 His 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.

<sup>4</sup>**The 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>**He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

<sup>8</sup>**The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe  
and strips the forests bare.**

<sup>9</sup>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>The Lord shall give strength to His people;  
the Lord shall give His people the blessing of peace.

Second Reading

Romans 6:1-11

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

**C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

\* The Gospel

Mark 1:4-11

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.** (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

\*The Hymn of the Day

*When Peace Like a River*

(ELW) No. 785

\*The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

\*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

\*The Offertory *Create in Me a Clean Heart* (SBH) No. 27

\* The Great Thanksgiving (ELW) page 144

\*The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Lamb of God (ELW) page 146

The Distribution

Communion Hymn *Let Us Break Bread Together* (ELW) No. 471

Prayer/Blessing

Announcements

\*The Benediction (*sung response*)

**C: Amen, Amen, Amen.**

\*The Recessional Hymn *The Holy Wings* (ELW) No. 613

\*The Dismissal (*response*)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*Postlude



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,  
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,  
 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;  
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



*Refrain*



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.



*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

(continue on next page)



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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



# When Peace like a River

*It Is Well with My Soul*

785

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well with my soul,

# The Communion

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly

The third system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

The fourth system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

The fifth and final system of musical notation on this page concludes the piece. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

# Let Us Break Bread Together

471

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, corresponding to the three parts of the hymn.

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, corresponding to the three parts of the hymn.

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

The Refrain section begins with a treble and bass staff in the same key signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in one line.

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

The final system of music concludes the piece. The melody and accompaniment continue from the previous system. The lyrics are arranged in one line.

1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,  
 2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast  
 3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.

and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.  
 where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.  
 Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.

Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,  
 Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,  
 Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,

and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.  
 for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.  
 and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

**First Lutheran Church**

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: secretary@flcwash.church

Online services posted weekly on website: [www.flcwash.church](http://www.flcwash.church)

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist

---

**The Flowers on the Chancel** are given to the glory of God by Mr. and Mrs. Donald P. Hazlett in loving memory of Rita Hazlett & sons Donald Paul Hazlett and Brent Robert Hazlett. Happy Birthday Bent 1-11-66.

**The Lay Reader** is Lisa Maust.

**Acolytes are** Heidi and Denico Walsh.

**Counters** today are C. Group and V. Group.

**Welcome to our Visitors!** The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

**Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church?** Please contact Pastor Grewe.

**The Word in Season** daily devotional for the next quarter is available in the narthex. Please take one for your use. They are provided by the women of the church.

**Nursery:** We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs of infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

**The Flower Chart for 2024** is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

**Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2024.** Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

**Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2024.** Please sign up.

**Please remember to continue contributing donations to our girls in Ethiopia. Please consider this as a call to help others in need.**

---

**Please pray for those in need of healing:**

Janet Burke, Shari Kienzle, Susan Westott, baby Isaac Christian, the Pollana family, Sylvia Sunstrum, Fritz Group, Eric Group, Danielle Sherman, Amy Verderber, Tillie and Larry, Lou Mayne, Judy, Debbie, Sayward, Jim H., Barbara Mounts, Chiquita Pearson, Tim and Sharon, Judy Coble, Gary Conti, Linnese, Karen and John, Neil Bassi, Phyllis Daniels, Simon Thorp, Josh, Anneliese Christian, Becky Wood, Apollos Yocca, Alex Houck, Bridgette, Rhonda Hendrickson, Ron Erdmann, Belinda, Wilda Durbin, Stacy Carroll, Emerson Dietrich, Leann Vitteck, Isabella & family, James, Billie Sue Serbak, Lori Mauer, Jennifer Brown, Mark Black, Emma Solich, Kenny & Josh Carl, Cindi and John Moore, Sean Shearer, Ed Dupas, Sandy Salerno, Gavazzi family, and Janelle Henderson.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS  
FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

---

**Listening for the Promise**  
**Weekly Devotional**  
**Baptism of Our Lord— January 7, 2024**

“And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.”

Genesis 1:3 -

Katheryn Davis was an impressionistic artist who used multimedia in a way that enhanced light, color, and shape rather than details. Art was her way of exploring the world and understanding her place in it and some of her work was based on biblical stories. Her most famous work is a series of paintings called “The Seven Days of Creation.” She represented each day with color, shape, and texture using watercolor, pastel, metallic paint, and collage medium. The paintings show Katheryn’s image of the creation story, from her point of view and her creative mind.

We would all probably find a different way of representing the seven days of creation, perhaps including more details or defining the aspects of each day more clearly. In her series, the fifth day is the most obvious; the birds and fish are subtle but present on the canvas. The most difficult to recognize is the first day, but that’s probably the hardest of all to capture. After all, how do you represent “a formless void” and “Day and Night” on canvas? How do you take common earthly elements to portray the incredible thing God did on that first day?

It might not be possible for human beings to recreate God’s work of creation, but the formless void in Genesis is like an empty canvas. Like an artist, God had a vision; His vision sprang into life when He spoke, beginning with the spiritual foundation of our lives. He separated the light from the dark. The light which He called “Day,” is love, mercy, hope, grace, joy, generosity, justice, and all things good. The dark, the Night, is the absence of those good things. In the midst of all this was Christ, the Word; through Him all things were made. God brought His imagination to life; His vision for that formless void was created with just a word, His Word.

Today we celebrate the baptism of our Lord Jesus. God spoke at His baptism as He came out of the water; at that moment He once again divided light from darkness. He spoke hope into the world. He named Jesus His Son the Beloved and in Him we see the true Light revealed in His life, ministry, death, and resurrection that would overcome darkness forever. At that moment, the One who was with God in the beginning was empowered to fulfill all God’s promises to His people.