

# Baptism of Jesus

January 12, 2025

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude by the Faith Singers – “Wade in the Water,” arr. Willa Townsend*

## GATHERING

*\*Call to Worship and Confession*

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for confession*

P: Have mercy, O God,

**C: against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

P: As tender as parent to child, so deep is God’s compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God’s love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through † Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

**C: Blessed be God forever.**

*\*Gathering Song – “Baptized in Water” ELW 456*

- 1 **Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our king: heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing.**
- 2 **Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king: one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praise we sing.**
- 3 **Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king: born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

*\*Greeting and Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray ... Heavenly Father,

**C: With joy and awe we praise you for claiming us as your sons and daughters, and for pouring your Holy Spirit upon us. Help us to prepare this earth for your glory, and shine your light on all your faithful children, for the sake of the one whose birth and baptism brought renewal and transformation to this world, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*\*Sharing Christ's Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.*

*Children's Sermon*

## WORD

*\*Gospel Reading:* Luke 3:1-22      Reader: Patty Nelson

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

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

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea

and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ <sup>12</sup>Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ <sup>13</sup>He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

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

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

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

**P:** The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Hymn of Praise – “Forever”*

- 1. Give thanks to the Lord our God and King; his love endures forever.  
For he is good, he is above all things; his love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise.**
- 2. With a mighty hand and outstretched arm; his love endures forever.  
For the life that's been reborn; his love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise!**

*Refrain:* **Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong,  
forever God is with us, forever.**

*Ending:* **And ever, forever.**

*Sermon:* "What Should We Do?" Deacon Jason Fisher  
Director for Evangelical Mission, Central/Southern Illinois Synod--ELCA

*Song of the Day – “Remind Me Who I Am”*

**When I lose my way, and I forget my name, remind me who I am.  
In the mirror all I see, is who I don't wanna be. Remind me who I am.  
In the loneliest places, when I can't remember what grace is.  
Tell me once again who I am to You, who I am to You.  
Tell me lest I forget who I am to You, that I belong to You. To You.**

**When my heart is like a stone, and I'm running far from home,  
remind me who I am.**

**When I can't receive Your love, afraid I'll never be enough, remind me who I am.  
If I'm Your beloved, can You help me believe it.  
Tell me once again who I am to You, who I am to You.  
Tell me lest I forget who I am to You. that I belong to You. To You.**

**I'm the one you love. I'm the one you love. That will be enough.  
I'm the one you love.  
Tell me once again who I am to You, who I am to You.  
Tell me lest I forget who I am to You, that I belong to You.  
Tell me once again who I am to You, who I am to You.  
Tell me lest I forget who I am to You, that I belong to You. To You. To You.**

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

P: God is our foundation. Love is our beginning. And in God's great love, we are given a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. By water and the Word, God frees us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world. In the waters of baptism, God proclaims to us who we are. We are beloved children of God.

### **Presentation**

Parents: We bring Kyla Renee Forbes to this Christian community and to the waters of Holy Baptism.

P: Kyla, you are a beloved child of God, and today you are given the name Christian. To help you grow into your name, your parents are called to make promises.

Brittany and Shawn, as you bring Kyla to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,  
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in her hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture her in faith and prayer,  
so that she may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help her grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Kevin and Wendy, as godparents, you have a responsibility to pray for Kyla and help her always remember that she is a beloved child of God. Do you promise to nurture her in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Godparents: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

*The congregation stands.*

P: People of God, you have a responsibility to support and surround Kyla with Christian love, praying for her, discipling her, and serving with her. Do you promise to support Kyla and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

**C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

## **Profession of Faith**

P: There is evil in this world that we name devil and brokenness we call sin. We are powerless to overcome them, but the grace of God gives us strength to stand against them and forgiveness when we fall. Together, we profess our desire to live in this grace and in opposition to this brokenness.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,  
the powers of this world that rebel against God,  
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**C: I renounce them.**

P: As we live together in Christ, we are made one in baptism and profess one faith. It is this faith that centers us on the grace of our Triune God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

## **Thanksgiving at the Font**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Water is poured into the font.*

P: We give you thanks, O God. In the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. In the waters of the flood you called Noah and brought forth new life. By Moses, you called the people of Israel to follow you through the waters and led them from slavery into freedom. You nourished them with water from the rock and brought them to the promised land. At the river your Son was baptized by John and you proclaimed to all that he is your “beloved child.” In the waters of baptism, you create, you bring forth new life in us, you set us free from the power of sin, and you proclaim that we too are your beloved Children.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Holy Baptism**

*The congregation sits*

P: Beloved child of God, in this water, God calls you by name. Kyla, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*Laying on of Hands*

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal

life. Sustain Kyla with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### *Anointing with Oil*

P: In the Old Testament, oil is used to anoint and set people apart. In baptism, we are set apart as God's beloved children to live lives of love, justice, and mercy. Kyla, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**C: Amen.**

### *Giving of a Candle*

Congregational Representative: In John 8:12, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." In Matthew 5:14, Jesus said, "You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven." Brittany and Shawn, we give you this candle to light again and again as Kyla grows up. Remember this day and always know that she is and will always be a beloved child of God.

## **Welcome**

P: Together we say:

**C: Kyla Renee Forbes, you are beloved and blessed. By the grace of God that flows in the waters of baptism, we are drenched in our love for you, washed in our delight for you, and born anew by the grace that flows from the heart of our God who bore you to us. We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and in bearing God's creative and redeeming love to all the world.**

*\*Prayers*

*Stewardship Time*

"Getting Started," by Jeremy Camp  
*Sung by Marilyn Dichsen*

*–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew–*



*\*Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

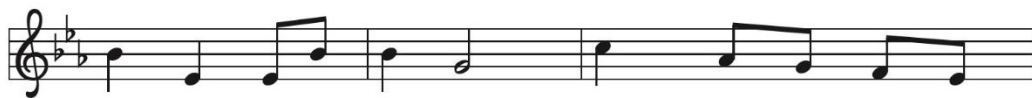
P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*\*Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution*

*\*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.**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Communion Songs*

“Child of the Water”

*Refrain: You're a child of the water, child of the Word,  
guided by promise and stories you've heard.*

*God of the wounded knows you by name and carries you home ev'ry day.*

**From your first breath to the last step, all of the dance;  
Down deep in your laughter, whatever your fears, try to remember. *Refrain***

**Life is a gift, time carries on, and you will grow;  
Amidst your believing and throughout your doubt, something is sure. *Refrain***

**We journey together as children of God, sealed by the cross. *Refrain***

“You Are Mine”

**1. I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear.  
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, Be still and know I am here.**

**2. I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see.  
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me.**

*Refrain: Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow me. I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.*

**3. I am strength for all the despairing, Healing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
All the blind will see, The lame will all run free, And all will know my name.**

*Refrain*

**4. I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give.  
I will call your name, Embracing all your pain, Stand up, now walk, and live!**

*Refrain*

*\*Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

*\*Closing Prayer*

**SENDING**

*\*Benediction*

P: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds  
in † Christ Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

*\*Sending Song – “Joy to the World / Joy of the Lord”*

1. **Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**The joy, the joy, the joy of the Lord is my strength.  
The joy, the joy, The joy of the Lord is my strength.  
The joy, the joy, The joy of the Lord is my strength.**

2. **Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, Rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**The joy, the joy, the joy of the Lord is my strength.  
The joy, the joy, The joy of the Lord is my strength.  
The joy, the joy, The joy of the Lord is my strength.**

3. **He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.**

**The joy, the joy, the joy of the Lord is my strength.  
The joy, the joy, The joy of the Lord is my strength.  
Oh-oh-oh, He is my hope. The joy, the joy,  
The joy of the Lord is my strength. *Repeat***

*\*Dismissal*

**P:** Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Song Credits**

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## Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Pam Devlin  
Greeter: Lillian Korous  
Reader: Patty Nelson  
Usher: Pat Glyshaw  
Pastor: Adam Dichsen  
Music Director: Jean Welch  
Pianist: Jean Welch  
Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen  
Financial Assistants: Greg Kimler & Kelly Street  
Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw  
Coffee Host: Kay Schnitker



### Singers:

Benen Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	Melissa Street
Kelly Hartz	Adam Krohe	Cole Street	Carol VanderKloot

### Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Marilyn Dichsen	Greg Kimler	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Kelly Street

The altar plants are given today by Brittany and Shawn Forbes  
in honor of Kyla's baptism today  
*and* in celebration of Connie & Dave Staake's 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

## What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, January 12, 9:30am: Worship + Baptism: Kyla Forbes  
11:00am: Bible Study

January 13-17: Doorbell Dinner Delivery

Monday, January 13, 5:00pm: Rescheduled Epiphany Soup Supper

Wednesday, January 15, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Group  
10:00am: Discipleship Group in the Library

Thursday, January 16, 5:45pm: Church Council Meeting

Sunday, January 19, 9:30am: Worship  
11:00am: Bible Study  
12:30pm Choir Rehearsal for  
2:00pm: Service of Prayer for Christian Unity (at Faith)

Wednesday, January 22, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Group

## News Updates

### Annual Reports

Anyone who would like to have an **Annual Report** included in the Annual Report Packets for 2024, please have your report to the church office (by e-mail is preferred) **by January 14**. The Annual Meeting will be held on January 26, and we need time to duplicate the reports into a packet to distribute on Sunday, January 19.

### Rescheduled: Epiphany Soup Supper Challenge: Global Hunger Appeal

In recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ELCA World Hunger, our Central/Southern IL Synod staff have challenged congregations to raise a total of \$10,000. We've accepted the challenge! We will host our own soup supper at **5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 13** and have an Epiphany sing along with favorites and requests. A free-will donation will be collected towards the synod's goal. If you would like to bring a soup to share or have an Epiphany song request, please sign up and add it to the list.

### Faith's Little Flock

This month, Faith's Little Flock will enjoy activities related to Jesus as a boy in the temple, Jesus' Baptism, His love for all people, and calling His disciples to be fishers of people. Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-6 and meets in the classroom next to the nursery after the Children's Sermon. "Big Kid Helpers" are welcome and appreciated in our Faith's Little Flock class. Our Big Kid Helpers do just that - they help the little ones with the more difficult parts of the crafts. The children all return to the sanctuary for the communion blessing. Word-finds, crossword puzzles, and other activity sheets are available in the gathering area for the older children to help reinforce the message of the day. We look forward to seeing all of the children in the New Year!

(Note: We would love to have older adult volunteers to read the scripture story to the children. Please contact Melissa Street if you are interested!)

**Contribution Envelopes for 2025** are available in the gathering area.

## **Doorbell Dinners**

delivery will be **January 13-17**, and there are still some spots to fill. If you are able to help, please sign up in the gathering area (counter by the coat closet).

## **Discipleship Group**

Please join our next discussion at 10:00am on **Wednesday, January 15**, in the Faith Library. For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at [khartz@sompo-intl.com](mailto:khartz@sompo-intl.com).

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

January 19 marks the start of the national Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. To commemorate, the Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is hosting a celebration of music and prayer on **Sunday, January 19, at 2:00pm** at Faith Lutheran Church. The event is being organized by Jean Welch and Pastor Adam. If you would like to sing in the community choir, please let Jean know – a rehearsal will be held at 12:30pm before the service that day.

## **ELCA National Day of Racial Healing**

The 2025 National Day of Racial Healing (NDORH) will be held on **Tuesday, January 21**. It is an annual observance that follows Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

This year, the ELCA, in partnership with Augsburg Fortress, will join the movement of racial healing for our church and the nation. On Jan. 21, 2025, from 1 am to 2pm Central time, the ELCA will feature a free, online educational event that centers the voices of ELCA leaders of color. We invite you to join us in this collective effort for a more just and equitable world. This event is open to all ELCA rostered ministers, lay leaders, and members. We welcome all ELCA synods, congregations, colleges, universities, seminaries, separately incorporated ministries and antiracism teams, as well as the church's affiliate organizations and ecumenical and interreligious partners.

**We invite you to register at [ELCA.org/NDORH](https://www.elca.org/NDORH).**

The day is designed to:

- Raise awareness of the need for racial healing.
- Inspire collective action to build common ground for a more just and equitable ELCA and world.

The NDORH is hosted by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and encourages community organizations, institutions, and individuals to participate in this national day. It was created with and builds on the work of the Truth, Racial Healing, & Transformation community partners. Join us on January 21, 2025.

## **Sign-Up Sheets**

are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

## **Bible Boot Camp & Faith Inkubators**

Stay tuned for a schedule for 2025!

## **Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea**

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$6.50** cashews). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

## **LSSI Foster Care**

Last month we heard about the ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. With so many in our Faith Family engaged in foster care, we would like to support LSSI’s efforts in this ministry. If you would like to make a donation, make your check to Faith Lutheran Church, designate it to “*LSSI Foster Care,*” and drop it in the offering box.

## **Pillars Giving Tree**

### **Bring Christmas Joy to the Children at the Pillars of Africa Children’s Ministry**

This Christmas season, we again have the opportunity to share the love of Christ with the children at the Pillars of Africa Children’s Ministry. The Giving Tree, in the gathering area, is adorned with ornaments, each representing a child and their needs this Christmas. Choose an ornament, make your donation payable to HUGS, and place it in the offering box.