



BAPTISM OF CHRIST

JANUARY 12, 2025

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF NORTHEAST MINNEAPOLIS

Welcome to worship! We are a congregation with a long history of loving God and serving our neighbors. We welcome and celebrate all of you, including race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, age, and family.

We welcome you to share fellowship with us in your joys and struggles. If you hunger for a good meal, a bag of groceries, the bread of communion, an opportunity to serve your neighbors, or a welcoming church home, there is a place for you at Grace!

When you see this symbol ✠ you're invited to stand as you are able.

We love to sing! When music and words are not printed in the bulletin, you can find the song in the red hymnal underneath the chairs at the page number listed.

Children belong in worship! We recognize that children aren't wired to "sit still" for an hour, so we welcome their quiet movement, joyous singing, and encourage their involvement in worship. Children of any age may pick out a book, toy, or art supplies in the Commons for use during the service.

Help love reach beyond these walls. You can give online at gracenempls.org/give or scan the code at the right. You can also place your offering in the plate as you come up for communion (envelopes are on the cart in the Commons).



All are welcome at Jesus' table to receive holy communion. We set the table with wheat bread, gluten-free crackers, white grape juice, and red wine.

Join us for fellowship time! All are invited to stay after worship for coffee, treats, and community connection in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Stay connected to what's happening at Grace: sign up for our weekly online newsletter, "The Scroll." Find the latest editions and the link to subscribe on our home page at gracenempls.org.

Two single-stall and wheelchair-accessible restrooms are just outside the sanctuary in the Commons, and another one is down the hallway across from the gym.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND GREETING

The grace of our savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ HYMN

Come Thou Font of Every Blessing

#807

✠ AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

On this day when we remember Jesus' own baptism, let us affirm the baptismal promise that is for all people.

Just as the body is one and has many members and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body: Jews or Greeks, enslaved or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. *1 Cor. 12:12–13*

Since God has embraced us in covenant love, let us profess our faith in Christ Jesus: rejecting sin and confessing the faith into which we baptize.

Do you renounce evil and all the forces that defy God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that corrupt and destroy God's creation? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God's love? **I renounce them.**

Let us continue with the words of the Apostles' Creed, a form of which has accompanied baptism since the Church's earliest centuries.

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.**

Having made public profession of your faith, do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ
through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

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

*After making our affirmation let give thanks for the waters of baptism,
since God's grace is greater than our intentions.*

...We praise you, Trinity of overflowing love,
today, tomorrow, forever. **Amen.**

✠ SPRINKLING HYMN *Baptized and Set Free* #453

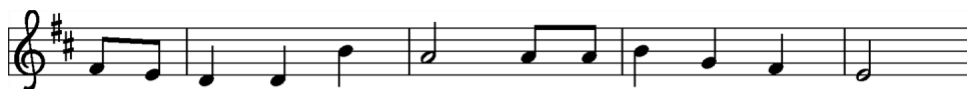
Sprinkled with water, remember you are baptized and rejoice! If you are not baptized, let the sprinkling be a symbol of God's free-flowing gifts to you.



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Remember you are baptized and rejoice! If you are not baptized, receive the sprinkling of waters as a symbol of God's free-flowing gifts to you.

PEACE

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

Please share a sign of peace with others as you are comfortable. When the hymn of praise begins, you may return to your seats and remain standing.

✠ HYMN OF PRAISE

Let's sing together the last verse of "Baptized and Set Free."

OBJECT LESSON

Any children who are interested and comfortable are invited to come forward for a reflection and short prayer. Parents and guardians are welcome too!

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now, says the LORD, the one who created you, the one who formed you: Don't 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; the rivers won't sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched and flame won't burn you. I am the LORD your God, the holy one of Israel, your savior. Because you are precious in my eyes, you are honored and I love you.

Don't fear, I am with you. From the east I'll bring your children; from the west I'll gather you. I'll say to the north, "Give them back!" and to the south, "Don't detain them."

Bring my sons from far away, and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name and whom I created for my glory, whom I have formed and made.

This is the word of life.
Thanks be to God.

✠ GOSPEL CHANT

ACS 1087

Let us rise to greet the gift of the Gospel!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia - ! Al - le - lu - ia!
As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be. A - men.

✠ GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:1, 3, 21-22

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius, God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins.

When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit came down



on him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

This is the Good News.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

✠ HYMN

O Living Breath of God

#407

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ACS 1075

The psalmist sang: “As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God” (Ps 42:1). Let us call out to God on behalf of creation, community, and our deepest longings.

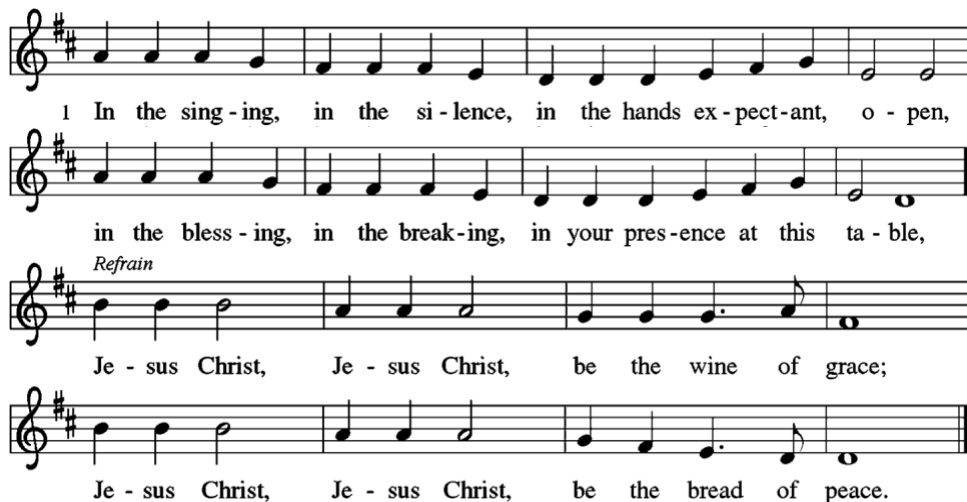
O God, we call, O God, we call, from
deep in - side we yearn, from deep in - side we yearn, from
deep in - side we yearn for you.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system has the lyrics 'O God, we call, O God, we call, from'. The second system has 'deep in - side we yearn, from deep in - side we yearn, from'. The third system has 'deep in - side we yearn for you.' The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a clear melody and accompaniment.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Let us offer our lives to God. You can give online at gracnempls.org/give or scan the code at the right. You can also place your offering in the plate as you come up for communion.





1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
 in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
Refrain
 Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;
 Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Christ broke bread among disciples,
 sharing with them as he said:

“Take and eat, this is my body, given for you to be fed.”

**Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;
 Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.**

“This cup too is full of promise;
 drink it and remember me;

A new covenant I offer for all people to be free.”
**Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;
 Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.**

✠ COMMUNION: PRAYER

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

Echo each acclamation of praise as you are invited:

We praise you, O God! **We praise you, O God!**
 We bless you, O God! **We bless you, O God!**
 We thank you, O God! **We thank you, O God!**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray...
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION: SHARING THE MEAL

May the meal we share truly be a communion
 with our Savior, with each other,
 and with Christ's body in every time and place. **Amen.**

All are welcome at the Lord's table. If you wish to receive, ushers will invite you forward. The pastor will place a piece of bread or a gluten-free cracker in your cupped hand as you hear "Body of Christ, given for you." In the brass trays are cups of red wine or golden grape juice. Take a small cup as you hear, "Cup of Christ, given for you." You may respond with "Amen," "Thank you," or with quiet acceptance.

If you cannot come forward but wish to receive communion or a blessing, please let an usher know and the servers will come to you. If for any reason you do not wish to receive, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing with your arms crossed over your chest.



As we celebrate Communion, you may join in singing:

HYMN

O Lamb of God

ACS Setting 11

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

Repeat

O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up -
on us, have . . . mer - cy up - on us.
Grant us your peace. A - men.

HYMN *By Your Hand You Feed Your People* #469

HYMN *Come to the Table of Mercy* #481

✠ POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Now may the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray: **Thank you, loving God,
for nourishing us with Christ's life.
As you have strengthened us for service,
send us in your Spirit's power
to share food and seek freedom with our neighbors;
in the name of Jesus Christ our savior. Amen.**

✠ BENEDICTION

Sent to live as the body of Christ, let us feel God's blessing on our bodies. Touch or make the sign of the cross on parts of your body as you hear them named.

God bless your ears,
that you may hear what the Spirit is saying.

God bless your eyes,
that you may recognize Christ in your midst.

God bless your lips,
that you may speak words of wisdom.

God bless your shoulders,
that you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.

God bless your hands,
that you may show God's mercy.

God bless your heart,
that you may abide in the love that the Spirit
lavishes upon you, this day and always. **Amen.**

CHORAL BLESSING

✠ HYMN

I'm Going on a Journey

#446

✠ SENDING

Go in peace. Live in love.
We will. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

SOURCES AND PERMISSIONS

Front cover: "Baptism of Christ," Dave Zelenka, 2005. • All other images © 2025 sundaysandseasons.com. • Scripture citations from the Common English Bible © 2011 CEB.

Music streamed under OneLicense A-737608. • "Baptized and Set Free." Words and music: Cathy Skogen-Soldner © 1999 Augsburg Fortress. • "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me." Words and music © 2008 Paul M. Vasile, admin. Augsburg Fortress. • "O God, We Call." Words and music: Linnea Good © 1994 Borealis Music. • "In the Singing, In the Silence." Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Music: Carlton R. Young. Words and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company. • "O Lamb of God." Words: traditional. Music: Rudy Espinoza © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.



ELCA • LGBTQ+ Affirming

Worship with us Sundays at 10 AM

1500 6th Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413 • 612-788-2444

www.gracenempls.org

We are called
to love God,
serve neighbors, and
tell the story of Jesus Christ,
welcoming all.



**Help love reach
beyond these walls.**
Scan this QR code
with your phone's
camera app
to give online.

**We're the home of
Little Kitchen Food Shelf,**
a no-boundaries, no-restrictions
food shelf serving all people.

**Little Kitchen
FoodShelf** 

Interested in volunteering?

Find opportunities to serve at gracenempls.org/foodshelf
or email Lynn Mena at admin@gracenempls.org

Need food? Pre-register by phone

9 - 11 AM Monday - Friday, 612-788-2444

Grace Center
for community life

**We're the founders of
Grace Center for Community Life**
empowering lives through
faith, learning, and service.

Interested in reserving space at Grace Center?

Call 612-810-6988 or email Lorrie Stromme at
Lorrie@GraceCtr.org