



**Bethel**  
Lutheran Church WELS

**First Sunday  
after Epiphany**



Bethel Lutheran exists to serve all people with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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**Hymn****299****All Who Believe and Are Baptized**

1 All who believe and are baptized  
Shall see the Lord's salvation;  
Baptized into the death of Christ,  
They are a new creation.  
Through Christ's redemption they shall stand  
Among the glorious, heav'nly band  
Of ev'ry tribe and nation.

2 With one accord, O God, we pray:  
Grant us your Holy Spirit.  
Help us in our infirmity  
Through Jesus' blood and merit.  
Grant us to grow in grace each day  
That by this sacrament we may  
Eternal life inherit.

**Invocation**

**P:** The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

**Confession and Absolution**

**P:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**P:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and the innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C:** *(spoken)* **Amen**

**P:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**C:** *(sung)*     **Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.**  
                  **Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**  
                  **Your Word, O Lord, is eternal;**  
                  **it stands firm in the heavens.**  
                  **Your faithfulness continues forever.**  
                  **Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.**  
                  **Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **First Lesson        Isaiah 49: 1-6**

Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name. 2 He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. 3 He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor." 4 But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God."

5 And now the Lord says—he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength—6 he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

**Refrain**      **Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**Great are the works of the Lord.**

Why do the nations conspire\*  
and the peoples plot in vain?  
The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers  
gather together against the LORD\*  
and against his Anointed One.

**Refrain**      **Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**Great are the works of the Lord.**

The One enthroned in heaven laughs;\*  
the Lord scoffs at them.  
Then he rebukes them in his anger  
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,\*  
“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”  
I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:\*  
He said to me, “You are my Son;  
today I have become your Father.”  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Refrain**      **Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**Great are the works of the Lord.**

**Second Lesson**                      **Acts 16: 25-34**

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. 27 The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul shouted, “Don't harm yourself! We are all here!”

29 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

### **Verse of the Day**

**P:** Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased. Alleluia.

**C:** *(sung)* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**These words are written that we may believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **Gospel Lesson                      Mark 1: 4-11**

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** *(spoken)* **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

### **Hymn                      89                      To Jordan's River Came Our Lord**

1 To Jordan's river came our Lord, The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,  
The God from God, the Light from Light, The Lord of glory, pow'r, and might.

2 The Savior came to be baptized-The Son of God in flesh disguised-  
To stand beneath the Father's will And all his promises fulfill.

3 As Jesus in the Jordan stood And John baptized the Lamb of God,  
The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove, Descended on him from above.

4 Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound Came God's own voice with words  
profound:

"This is my Son," was his decree, "The one I love, who pleases me."

5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight Anointed Christ in glorious sight  
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall To save the world and free us all.

6 Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute! This man is Christ, our substitute!  
He was baptized in Jordan's stream, Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

**Sermon Theme:**

Pastor Cox

### **The Importance of Jesus' Baptism**

#### **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 Blessing**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace.

**C:** *(spoken)* **Amen.**

#### **Hymn**

**83**

#### **As with Gladness Men of Old**

1 As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold,  
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore your followers be.

4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds your glory hide.