



**Baptism of Our Lord**  
*A Liturgy of Everlasting Light*

**January 12, 2025 + 9am**

**Zion-Public WiFi password: Zion54484**  
**Congregational responses are in BOLD.**

All are welcome to receive Jesus' unconditional gift of God's grace through the sacrament of Holy Communion. Regardless of your church membership or affiliation, all are encouraged to participate in communion or to come forward for a blessing.

*\*The communion bread is homemade by congregation members and contains gluten and honey. For those with allergies or sensitivities, an alternative will be provided upon request.\**

Children of all ages are encouraged to worship with the whole community in Christ. Children's worship bags are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Page numbers that are listed are found in the front of the cranberry-colored hymnal on the bottom of the page. Hymn numbers are listed in bold, large print on the top of the page.

If you would like home communion, hospital visit, or a conversation with the pastor, please contact the church office at 715.687.4110 or at [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org) or Pastor Amy Heinz at 608.498.5772 or [pastoramy@zionstratford.org](mailto:pastoramy@zionstratford.org).

**Ministers:** All the People of God through the love of Jesus and the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit

**Pastor:** Rev. Amy Heinz

**Administrative Assistant:** Kathy Busche

**Organists:** Judy Polege, Marge Redetzke, Ryan Huther

**Custodian:** Maryel Schoenfuss

**Missionaries:** Steven & Bethany Friberg, Tanzania

\* From Sundays and Seasons, copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress,  
License #23254, One License #A-715097

\*\*Reprinted and adapted for local use by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition*, ©2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources.

## PRELUDE

### CENTERING AND BELLS' CALL TO WORSHIP

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS / MISSION MOMENT

### We Gather in Grace

## INVOCATION

We gather in the name of God, the Creator of Light; +Jesus, the Light of the World; and the Holy Spirit, the Light who illumines our path.

**Amen**

## HYMN

*"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*

**ELW 249**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In this season of light, let us go before God and confess how our words and actions contribute to the darkness rather than adding to the light.

God of Love and Light,

**we confess that we are not always the light-bearers you desire us to be. We shine a spotlight on the transgressions of others while trying to keep our own sins hidden in the dark. We burn bridges by being impatient, opinionated, and judgmental. We inflame others by lashing out in anger. We go through our days enveloped in the gloom of fear and doubt. We let our witness become a smoldering ember until it dies out completely. Forgive us Jesus, Everlasting Light. Come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel. Teach us to walk as children of light, surrounded by your love, forgiveness, and healing. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.**

God is light, and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

**Amen.**

## GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

## KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy — on your peo - ple. Christ have mer - cy — on — us.  
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. — Chri - ste e - le - i - son.



Shine your light in — to our dark - ness. Fill us — with your ho - ly love.  
Heal all — con - flicts be - tween na - tions. Teach us — how to — live as one.



Be our strength in times of — trou - ble. Set us free from chains that — bind.  
Show us how to love our — neigh - bor. Run to those who — cry for — help.



Breathe new life in - to our — spir - its. Pu - ri - fy our — hearts and minds.  
Word made flesh who lives a - mong us; Christ our — Lord, Em - man - u - el.

## HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo - ry be to God on high. Peace, good - will to all the earth. Let us sing a  
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shines on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed



joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo - - -  
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glor -



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Heavenly Father,**

**With joy and awe we thank you for claiming us as your sons and daughters, and for pouring your Holy Spirit upon us. Shine your light on all your children, for the sake of the one whose birth and baptism brought renewal and transformation to this world, Jesus Christ, our redeemer.**

**Amen.**

## **We Hear the Word of God**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **COMPLEMENTARY READING**

**Psalm 51:6-17**

- <sup>6</sup> You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- <sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.
- <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
- <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.
- <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

- <sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- <sup>16</sup> For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
- <sup>17</sup> The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

## READING

**Luke 3:1-22**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, 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 coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

<sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and 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 ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be 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 strap 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.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**Open and Shut**

Rev. Amy Heinz

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

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

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.

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. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Keep watch, O Lord, with all who work or watch or weep, and in your great mercy, give ear to our prayers for all.

God of hope,  
be with all who are waiting for a miracle.  
Waiting for God;  
**hear our fervent prayer.**  
waiting for justice;  
**hear our fervent prayer.**



waiting for a diagnosis;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for a phone call;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for a job;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for death;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for inspiration;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for the right moment;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for the fighting to stop;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for day to dawn;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for a baby to be born;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

Hear our cries as they rise to your throne,

cries from those who wait in God's house.

We pray in the name of Emmanuel.

**Amen.\*\***

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **We Share the Meal**

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

**ELW 294 v3**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of Light, our world can be a very dark place. Therefore, we return to you the gifts of ourselves, our time, and our resources, trusting you will use them to set the world aglow with your loving presence. May our offerings continue to shine brightly before others so they may see our good works and give glory to you. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.\*\*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

At the beginning of creation God said, "Let there be light;" and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. In ancient times God led the Israelites through the desert with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The priests of old kept a perpetual fire burning in the temple to remind us that God is the light which cannot be extinguished.

Finally, Jesus, the Word, who was with God since the beginning of creation, became flesh and lived among us. We have seen his glory shining in our world, full of grace and truth. Christ's light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. We are commanded not to hide this light under a bushel basket, but to put it on a lamp stand so that everyone can see it. With our lights burning brightly, we now join the saints and angels in a hymn of praise to God, the Everlasting Light.

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One... God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and  
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed  
is the one who comes... Blessed! Blessed! in... the name of God.....

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### DISTRIBUTION SONGS

*“O Lamb of God” (to the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)*

*“Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”*

**ELW 303**

*“As with Gladness Men of Old”*

**ELW 302**

### BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### We Serve the World in God’s Name

### BENEDICTION

In gratitude to God, and empowered by the Spirit, let us strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying: Come, Lord Jesus! And may God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### CLOSING SONG

*“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”*

**ELW 310 v1,2,4**

## **DISMISSAL**

Lay aside works of darkness, put on the armor of light, and go in peace,

**with open doors, open hearts, and open hands.**

**Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

Most liturgical texts were written and/or adapted by David Eck, ©2011. The words to the *Kyrie*, *Hymn of Praise*, *Sanctus*, and *Lamb of God* were written and/or adapted by David Eck, ©2011. All tunes are traditional carols and traditional arrangements with no copyright restrictions.

Additional liturgical texts have been adapted for local use by the Rev. Amy Heinz.

## **Zion Lutheran Church**

***Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands***

213501 Legacy Street

Stratford, WI 54484-5908

715.687.4110 + <https://zionstratford.org>