

# The Baptism of Our Lord



# **New Life Ev. Lutheran Church**

*Lake Zurich, IL*

*...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.*

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## **First Sunday after the Epiphany—The Baptism of Our Lord January 12, 2025**

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the lower level of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the fellowship hall after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon. The service is also simulcast on the church's Facebook page.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

*Before Service Prayer:* Lord of Hope and Light, in the midst of darkness You offered light to people who lived in fear. Today that light comes to us as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Open our hearts this day and remind us that You have marked us as people of hope and light. Prepare us to serve You by serving Your world. Amen.

*Today's Service:* *Divine Service 3, NPH, reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #11327771.*

*Today's Theme:* **BAPTISM IS THE CURE FOR AN IDENTITY CRISIS**

"Who is Jesus?" For the longest time, people thought the answer to that question was, "Mary and Joseph's son" or "a carpenter from Nazareth." While true enough, those answers do not adequately describe Jesus. But when Jesus was baptized, God the Father spoke, declaring Jesus true identity. Jesus was the dearly loved Son of God, chosen to be the Savior of the world.

"Who are you?" someone asks. Perhaps you would answer by providing your name. Maybe you would add additional information—where you are from or what you do for a living. Perhaps, in some dark corner of your mind, you would answer negatively. "I'm no one."

We need to understand that none of those things *really* describes who we are. To answer that question—"Who are you?"—we must look to our baptism. Baptism is the cure for an identity crisis. There, just like He did with Jesus, our Father declares us to be His dearly loved child. Moreover, in baptism God anointed us with power for a life of selfless service. May God grant us this epiphany moment!

Pastor's Welcome

## Gathering Rite on Holy Baptism

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

**C: Amen.**

*(To be sung after a lengthy musical introduction.)*

**Baptized into Your name most holy,  
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,  
Among Your saints, Your chosen host,  
Buried with Christ and dead to sin.  
Your Spirit now shall live within.**

P: I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

**C: Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.** *(John 3:5,6)*

P: Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us *(Psalm 51:5)*

**C: Be we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** *(1 Corinthians 6:11)*

*(To be sung after a lengthy musical introduction.)*

**My loving Father, there You took me  
To be henceforth Your child and heir.  
My faithful Savior, there You let me  
The fruit of all Your sorrows share.  
O Holy Spirit, comfort me  
When threat'ning clouds around I see.**

P: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed You in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve Your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*(To be sung after a lengthy musical introduction.)*

**My faithful God, You fail me never;  
Your promise surely will endure.  
Oh, cast me not away forever  
If words and deeds become impure.  
Have mercy when I come defiled;  
Forgive, lift up, restore Your child.**

P: Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*(To be sung after a lengthy musical introduction.)*

**All that I am and love most dearly -  
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.  
Let me confess my faith sincerely  
And help me Your own child to be!  
Let nothing that I am or own  
Serve any will but Yours alone.**

*The Salutation and Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

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.

**C: Amen.**

*The First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13* – David was the youngest of eight brothers and a lowly shepherd. Yet, at his anointing, the Lord declared his true identity—future king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

<sup>2</sup> But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”

The Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”

<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

<sup>5</sup> Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.”

<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." <sup>9</sup> Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>10</sup> Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." <sup>11</sup> So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

<sup>12</sup> So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."

<sup>13</sup> So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah. (NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel Acclamation:* Alleluia. You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased. Alleluia.  
(Mark 1:11b)

*The Gospel Lesson:* **Luke 3:15-22** – People wondered if John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was a powerful preacher who lived a unique life. But at His baptism, Jesus was identified by His Father as the Anointed One.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

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

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But One who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. 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 barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup> And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

<sup>19</sup> But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, <sup>20</sup> Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

<sup>21</sup> When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as He was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased." (NIV 2011)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Confession of Faith: Nicene Creed

**We believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.**

**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.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day: CWS 709 "Christ, Your Footprints Through the Desert"

The Sermon

*After the sermon, the congregation sings:*

Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God,  
 and re - new a stead - fast spir - it with - in me.  
 Do not cast me from your pres - ence or take your  
 Ho - ly Spir - it from me.  
 Re - store to me the joy, the joy of  
 your sal - va - tion and grant me a will - ing  
 spir - it to sus - tain me.

*The Offering* (Gathered by the ushers, the offering will be placed on the Lord's altar. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life's website.)



*The Prayer of the Church*

*The Lord's Prayer*

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.**

*The Sacrament*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for at His Baptism Your voice from heaven revealed Him as Your beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him, confirming Him to be the Christ. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly  
Lord, God of pow - er, God of might: heav - en and  
earth are full of your glo - ry, ho - ly,  
ho - ly, ho - ly Lord! Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Holy, mighty, and everlasting Father, of Your own goodness You have made all things and by Your mercy still preserve Your own creation. We give You thanks that You have sought us out even when we rebelled against Your goodness and, in the unfolding ages, have revealed to us Your saving will and purpose in Christ, our Lord. He was born in flesh to take our place in water and make for us this sacrament of life by which we are born again. He suffered in our place even to death and rose that not even death may prevent the triumph of Your grace. As He has made us His own children in baptismal water, preserve and nourish us with Your grace that by this communion of His body and blood we may be forgiven our sins and all You have begun brought to completion in us. According to His own promise and testament, we come to His Table to receive the fruits of His redeeming work by faith.

**C: Amen.**

The Words of Institution (spoken by the pastor)

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

**C: Amen.**

O Christ, Lamb of God

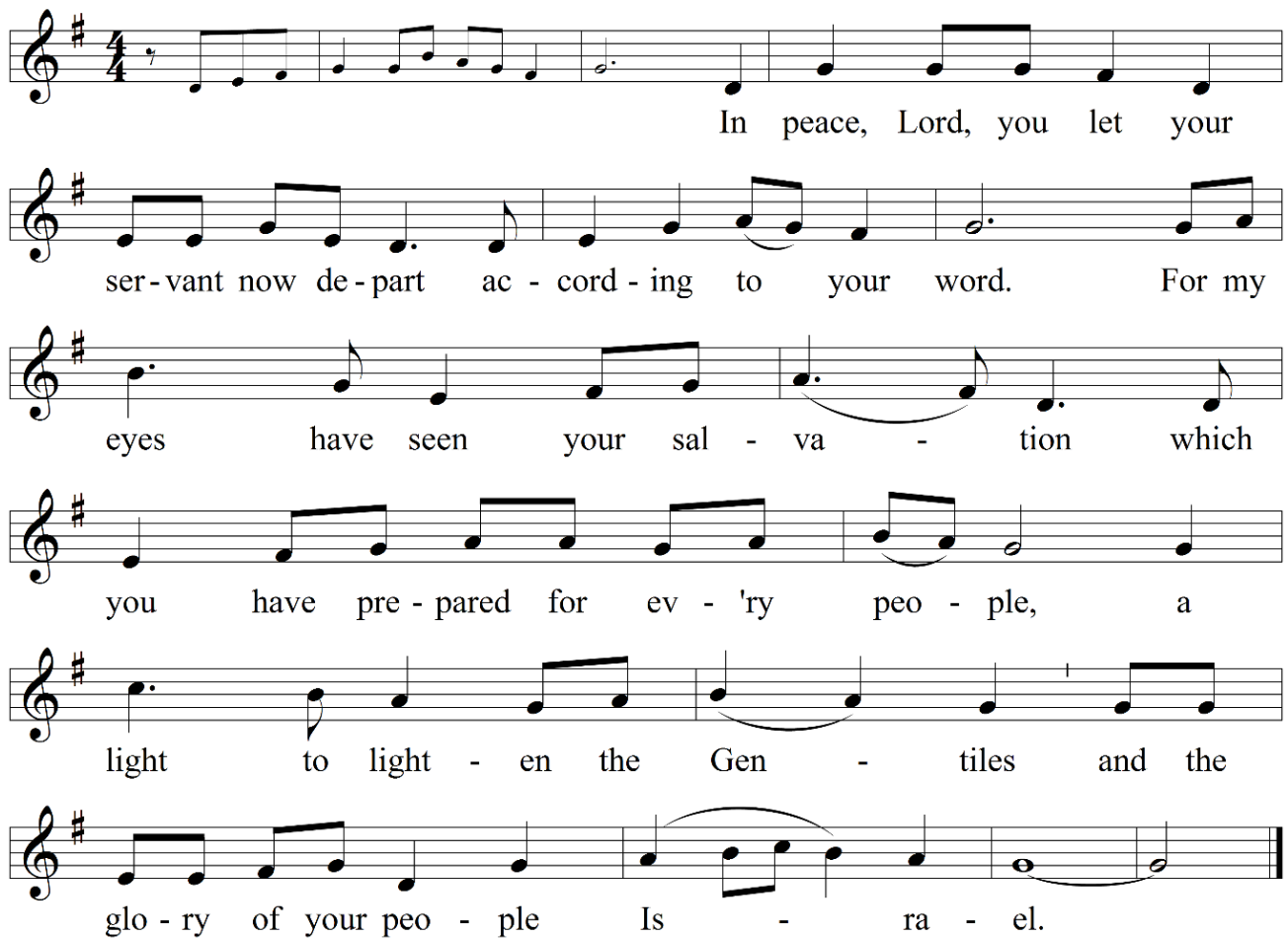
Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world, have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world, *rit.* grant us your peace.  
*a tempo*  
A - men. A - men. A - men.

Our Communion Practice

New Life Lutheran Church practices “close communion.” We ask that only members of New Life or other WELS or ELS churches partake of the sacrament. We ask our visitors to please respect our communion practice.

The Distribution Hymn: CW 377 “To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord” (CW93 89)

The Song of Simeon



In peace, Lord, you let your  
ser-vant now de-part ac-cord-ing to your word. For my  
eyes have seen your sal-va-tion which  
you have pre-pared for ev-'ry peo-ple, a  
light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the  
glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

C: **And His mercy endures forever.**

P: We give You thanks, almighty God, that in the waters of the Jordan, Jesus began His earthly work of redemption and sanctified water to be a means of grace and an instrument of our new life. Help us to see through Your own eyes the miracle of Your grace by which our Savior took upon us the full measure of our sin and by whom we have been born again by water and the Spirit; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## Blessing

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

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: CW 692 “All Who Believe and Are Baptized” (CW93 299)

## Our Father’s Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Daugherty and Dundore

**Today**—Baptism of Our Lord Communion Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible class at 10:45 AM

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**—Early Childhood Committee meeting at 3:15 PM

Branch Connection meeting at 4:30 PM

Tone Chime Choir rehearsal at 7:00 PM

**Friday**—Men’s Bible Class at 11:30 AM

**Next Sunday**—Second Sunday after the Epiphany Worship Service at 9:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

### **FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET**

A new sign-up sheet has been posted for providing something to eat and drink after the Sunday service. The sheet covers December 2024 through March 2025.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE CLASS**

Today, the Sunday school kids will cover the Bible story “Esther,” and the adult Bible class will continue John chapter 18 which tells us about Jesus’ trial before Pontius Pilate.

### **BOWLING OUTING**

New Life is planning a bowling outing for Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon at Bowlero in Deer Park. See the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall for more information and to sign-up. The subsidized cost for two hours of bowling, shoes, pizza and soda is only \$10 per person.

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

As of Sunday, January 5th we have received \$110,637 in offerings for the current fiscal year. This places us \$13,032 behind the budget, which is a \$5,217 improvement compared to the previous week.

This week’s improvement was possible through the generous gift of a donor to support the Lord’s work here at New Life. Let their gift serve as a reminder and inspiration of the joyful attitude we should all have in our gifts to the Lord.

### **ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE**

Our endowment fund to support Lutheran education here at New Life is currently \$42,847.55. The endowment fund earned \$1,460.47 in interest last year. The Executive Board has determined that those earnings will be used to support our preschool program.

## **PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

A preschool open house is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4 from 5:00 – 6:30 PM. Tree of Life will also have a booth at the Wauconda Area Library preschool fair held on Tuesday, January 28 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Please tell any parents of preschool aged kids about our wonderful preschool program.

## **INSTALATION**

This past Sunday, Pastor Bramdeo Ramgolam was installed as the new pastor at Lord and Savior Lutheran Church in Crystal Lake. Pastor Bram was born in Guyana and served for the past 18 years in St. Lucia.

