

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 12, 2025

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION p. 117

KYRIE

HYMN OF PRAISE – “Gloria, Gloria, Gloria” p. 176

PRAYER OF THE DAY – Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in you, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON ISAIAH 43:1-7

PSALM 29

SECOND LESSON ACTS 8:14-17

VERSE: Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

REFLECTION – At our baptism, a hand is laid on us, invoking and inviting the Holy Spirit through blessing. Over our cleansed and blessed bodies descends from the Father that Holiest Spirit. Over the waters of baptism reposes the Spirit, who glided down on the Lord in the shape of the dove. ... After the waters of the deluge, by which the old iniquity was purged—after the baptism, so to say, of the world—a dove was the herald that announced to the earth the placating of celestial wrath. The dove had been sent from the ark and had returned with the olive branch, a sign of peace. In the same way, the dove of the Holy Spirit flies to the earth—that is, to our flesh—as we emerge from the font, bringing us the peace of God.—*Tertullian 155-220 CE*

HYMN #838 ELW INSERT

“Beautiful Savior”
“Glorioso Cristo”

NICENE CREED p. 126

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially the Emmanuel Spanish language worship group.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, with confidence in your promises and presence. **Amen.**

OFFERING Song

“Allelu, Allelu”

SHARING PEACE

HOLY COMMUNION WITH LORD’S PRAYER p. 129

BENEDICTION – The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

THIS WEEK AT EMMANUEL

SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. Worship
WEDNESDAY 10:30 a.m. MFF Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. AA

Let us pray for...

Kurt Kusserow, **Bishop, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod**
Peter Asplin, Melissa Stoller, **Assistants to the Bishop**
Elizabeth Eaton, **Presiding Bishop, ELCA**
Bishop Henrik Stubkjær, **President, Lutheran World Federation**
President Modeste, **Tulear Synod, Malagasy Lutheran Church**

HEALING & SPECIAL NEEDS: George & Debbie K., asylum seekers especially children, Rachel F., Pr. Norm M., Peggy E., Marilyn & Brian H., Rose & Chip, Rita, Judy H., Kirk D., Noah, Karen M., Len & Carole, Roni, Karin, Tommy C., Karen S., Darlene & Al, Lana, Dayton, Jeffery, Don W., Mindy, Marilaine, Nancy, Aligha, Ron R., Zach F., Katie, Ed, Tyler C., Nan, Sandra, Lisa, Marlene, Bill, Amy, Tony, Patty N., Marylen, Yuri, Roy, Leilani, Lynn F., Pr. Tony Schneck, Shelly, Debbie, Myschal, Dawn, Danny M., Nancy S., Marsha & Burt, & all with flu, RSV, COVID and unknown illnesses.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY: President Carter, Bill Loughner, Pr. Maren Alexis Tomkiel.

NURSING HOME / ASSISTED LIVING: Mary Jane Freund (Concordia Ridgewood-Plum); Shirley & Jack Pickens (William Penn Center); Roni Mayhood (Merakey); Esther Schwab (Beatty Point) June Minnear (Beatty Point Village); Evelyn Rae Dodson (Harmarville Village); Georgetta Colton (Seneca Place).

CAREGIVERS: Judy M., Chris, Chip, Rebecca, Darlene, Elaine, Sandi.

EMPLOYMENT: Derrick, Yelisbeth, Cassie, Tyler.

COUNTRY OF THE MONTH: Syria

MISSION PARTNER: Holy Trinity - East Pittsburgh

CHURCH OF THE MONTH: Trinity Verona

LUTHERAN AGENCY: Augusta Victoria Hospital Jerusalem West Bank)

SCHOOL OF THE MONTH: Redeemer Elementary

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

- ¹ But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
- ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
- ³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
- ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
- ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
- ⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
- ⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Psalm: Psalm 29

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- ³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- ⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
- ¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

Second Reading: Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² 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."

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