

The Baptism of Our Lord

01/12/2025

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*Please stand, as you are able.
The Epiphany star is lit.*

L The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

L ^{2:1}In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

- L The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The magi complete their journey to the Nativity.

- P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

- P Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
C **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

- P For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
C **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

- P Let us pray. Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN: [ELW#815 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"](#)

- P The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C **And also with you.**

- P Let us pray. 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 your service, 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.
C **Amen**

Please be seated.

PSALM 29

L ¹Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

C ²**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

L ³The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

C ⁴**The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

L ⁵The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

C ⁶**the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

L ⁷The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.

C ⁸**The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

L ⁹The 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!"

C ¹⁰**The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

L ¹¹O Lord, give strength to your people;

C give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

LUKE 3:1-22

L The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the third chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

L ¹In 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, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as 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. ⁵Every 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, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

⁷John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, 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. ⁹Even 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."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers 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."

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

¹⁸So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

¹⁹But 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, ²⁰added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

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

- L The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: [ELW#456 “Baptized in Water”](#)

SERMON: [\(Sermon Audio Link\)](#)

Pastor Greg's Context-O-Meter for the Gospel of Luke



The Prologue	1:1–4
The Infancy Narratives	1:5–2:52
Preparation for the Ministry of Jesus	3:1–4:15
The Ministry of Jesus in Galilee	4:16–9:50
The Journey to Jerusalem	9:51–19:27
The Ministry of Jesus in Jerusalem	19:28–21:38
The Suffering and Death of Jesus	22:1–23:56
The Resurrection of Jesus	24:1–53

Please stand, as you are able.

- L Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C **We believe in one God, the Father, the 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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

OFFERING*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.

RESPONSE: ["Create in Me"](#)

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

L With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L 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 Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

L 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

L 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

L You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery. We pray for Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, Michelle Drayson, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Lydia Hendersen, Mark Hughes, Kaitlyn Leedy, Charlotte Leer, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Dottie Reitz, Claudia Schober, D. J. Singer, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

L 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

L 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

L We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C **Amen**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **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**

- L** 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 + give you peace.
- C** **Amen**

SENDING HYMN: [ELW#543 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"](#)

- P** Go in peace. Love and serve God and neighbor.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Upcoming Events

- Saturday, Jan 18, 2025 – 7:00pm – Game Night
- Sunday, Feb 2, 2025 – 1:00pm – Lady Terps Basketball

Upcoming Worship

Date	Liturgical Day	Preaching Texts	Worship Leader
January 12	1 Epiphany	Luke 3:1-22	Julie and Dave
January 19	2 Epiphany	Luke 4:14-30	Ron
January 26	3 Epiphany	Luke 5:1-11	Monica

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