



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."

Baptism of our Lord Sunday

Communion Service

January 7th, 2024

This worship is being live streamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.

*NOTE: Bold text indicates worshippers' response, and * means please stand as able.*

PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME & MINISTRY MESSAGES

Pastor Ron Gerl

Reader: *Barb Vadnais*

Acolyte: *Morgan Titel*

Video: *Dave Young*

Ushers: *Billy Heltne, Tim Jenson*

GATHERING

* GREETING The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

* GATHERING HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are

WOV#646- verses 1-4

We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright; westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. **Refrain**

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshipping God Most High. **Refrain**

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **Refrain**

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

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* CONFESSION Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge, **we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

Amen.

* FORGIVENESS The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of † Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. We are God's beloved.

Amen.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY 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. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful in their calling to be your children and inheritors 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

* HYMN OF PRAISE

Praise God from whom All Blessings Flow

LBW#564

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

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GROWING

Please join in reading Psalm 29 responsively.

Psalm: Psalm 29 (NIV)

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.**

³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic.**

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

6 He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning.

8 The voice of the LORD shakes the desert; the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of the LORD twists the oaks^[c] and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

10 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever.

¹¹ The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

Our reading today is from Acts 19th chapter.

Acts 19:1-7 (NIV)

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

¹ While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ² and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³ So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. ⁴ Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11 (NIV)

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

⁴ 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."

The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O, Christ.



MESSAGE "Baptism"

Pastor Ron Gerl

* HYMN OF THE DAY

Shall We Gather at the River

WOV#690- all verses

Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river; gather with the saints
at the river that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. **Refrain**

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver and provide a robe and crown. **Refrain**

Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. **Refrain**

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

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*THE APOSTLES' CREED (*professed together*)

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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**

*Or, He descended to the dead. ** universal

* PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The OFFERING PLATE is located at the entrance of the church sanctuary. Your generous giving supports God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill.

*OFFERING HYMN

Create in me a Clean Heart

ELW#186

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Psalm: 51:-10-12

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* OFFERING PRAYER Blessed are you, Holy One, **for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.**

Amen.

* ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION 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.**
It is indeed right and salutary.....

* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

* 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

* INVITATION All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat and drink what is good.

HOLY COMMUNION – *All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine are welcome to commune with us. Gluten-free wafers available and give "thumbs up" for grape juice. Children who do not yet receive Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing. If you or a family member would like communion brought to them, please tell an usher.*

* POST COMMUNION PRAYER: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

* BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* BLESSING God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.

Amen.

* SENDING HYMN

Let All Things Now Living

LBW#557- all verses

Let All Things Now Living

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to
God the creator triumphantly raise, who fashioned and
made us, protected and stayed us, who still guides us
on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us, His
light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the
night, till shadows have vanished and darkness is
banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

MAILING ADDRESSES for those folks who you may want to send words of care, concern, cheer, or sympathy. ***Please let the secretary know if you would like to be added and/ or know someone who might like to be.***

- Audrey Bracher:
Meadowbrook at Bloomer 1840 Priddy St, Room 112 B, Bloomer, WI 54724
- Roger Tubbs: 3706 Damon St Apt 11, Eau Claire, WI 54701-9266

SIGN UP TO HOST A SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP~

Serve with family or friends **or** pair up with a “veteran” fellowship server- we love to help!

Entails: Making/serving coffee, cut/serve summer sausage and cheese, and crackers (found in the church refrigerator/ cabinets), and bring one treat (fruit or sweets or popcorn...you choose). Then just clean up after the event.

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Need an easy 2024 resolution?



Wednesday, January
10, 2024, 11am-5 pm
Elk Mound
Community

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church.

Give blood or platelets!

Donors of all blood types are needed!

(especially type O blood donors and platelet donors!)

Resolve to save lives in 2024!