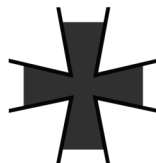


# Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2024



MEMORIAL  
**LUTHERAN**  
CHURCH



# Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2024

Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

**Prelude:** Variations on *"Puer Nobis"* - Michael Burkhardt

*Lois Theesfield, organ*

## Welcome

**Gathering Hymn: "Arise, Your Light Has Come" ELW #314**

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

In the name of the Father,  
And of the Son,  
And of the Holy Spirit,  
**Amen.**

We bless you, almighty God, for the gift of water--for the oceans that surround the earth, for the rivers that nurture the land - for the Des Moines River, Indian Creek, and for all the water that you provide which our community enjoys including places like Saylorville Lake and Ada Hayden Park--we bless you, O God, for the waters of earth:

**C: We bless you, O God, for the waters of earth.**

P: We honor you, merciful God, for showering us with water--for the rain that nourishes the plants and trees, for the floods that restore the fields, for the dew that freshens dry places--we honor you, O God, for the waters you send:

**C: We honor you, O God, for the waters you send.**

P: We glorify you, gracious God, for the waters of baptism--for the water of the Jordan that washed our Lord Jesus, for the water that baptized the believers on Pentecost, for the water that illumines us with your Word, for the water that pours out the gifts of the Spirit, for the water that bathes the church universal--the Orthodox, Roman Catholics, Protestants, Pentecostals, Evangelicals, and all who call on your name--we glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism:

**C: We glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism.**

P: We worship you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, almighty, merciful, and gracious. Well of forgiveness, you revive us, Cup of cold water, you refresh us, Pool of rebirth, you renew us. To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever:

**C: To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace




to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -



lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly




Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

*Final refrain*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est.



A - men, a - men.

## Prayer of the Day

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 29

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 19:1-7

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." <sup>3</sup>Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup>Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—<sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Children at Heart Sermon

### Gospel Acclamation



### Gospel Reading: Mark 1:4-11

The Gospel according to Mark  
**Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

### Sermon

**Hymn of the Day: "When Jesus Came to Jordan" ELW #305**

### 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 Intercession**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### **Offering**

**Music Voluntary** *"On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"* - Michael Burkhardt  
*Lois Theesfield, organ*

### **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.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

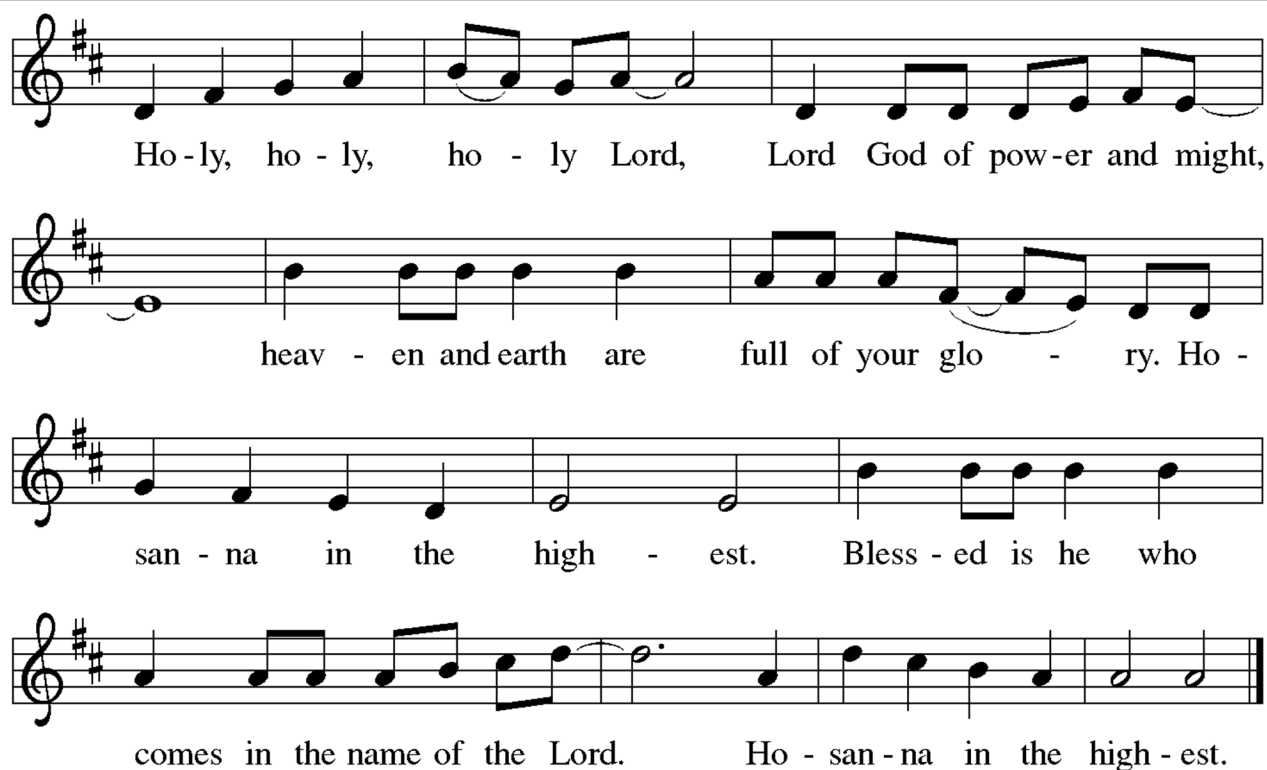
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.



And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

## 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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## **Communion Hymns**

*"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" - ELW #249*

*"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" - ELW #310*

## **Prayer After Communion**

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.

**Amen.**

## **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: "O Lord, Now Let Your Servant" ELW #313**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *"On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry" - David Cherwien*  
*Lois Theesfield, organ*

## Prayers for Healing

If you have a prayer request, please email [pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org](mailto:pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org) or [emily@mlcnevada.org](mailto:emily@mlcnevada.org), or call the church office at 515-382-6509.

*Please keep the family of +Dick Settle in your prayers following his death*

*Please keep the family of +Connie Krupp in your prayers  
following her death*

*Please keep the family of +Lynn Harris in your prayers  
following his death*

*Please keep Karen Blank and family in your prayers  
following the death of Karen's husband, +Don Blank*

*Please keep Larry & Deb Parker and family in your prayers  
following the death of Larry's brother, +Ron Parker*

*Please keep Nancy Christian and family in your prayers  
following the death of her husband, +Larry Christian*

Johann Thiel	John Bass	Norma Dannan
Paul Johnson	son-in-law of Ron & Gloria Jacobson	friend of Betty Runge
Mike Neal	Carol Vincent	Jami Tharp
Wayne Kinyon	Cassie Harrell	Fred Samuelson
Kathy Lynn Johnson	Jean Smith	Jaylee Bartleson
Christina King	Ellie Lynch	Sheila Collingwood
Sherry Kluever	Ernie Ruhde	mother of Lyndsey De Vos
Kim Elliott	Sierra Parr	Judy Coverdale
Marsha Kane	cousin of Kim Stieler	George Forsyth
Pr. Marcia Kisner	Janet Jacques	Janeen Driscoll
Marlene Waddell	Easton Farrington	Julie Sutherland
friend of Virginia Palmisano- Goettsch	Janice Hartz	Jan Cook
Sandy Muesburger	Jackie Byers	
friend of Virginia Palmisano- Goettsch	daughter of Shellie Black	
	Donna See	

**Hospitalizations:** *If you are in the hospital or are going to be in the hospital and want us to be aware of it, please call the church office or have someone call on your behalf. Unless directed otherwise, your name will be placed on the prayer list and included in electronic notifications.*

## Announcements

### **TODAY Following Worship: Christmas De-decorating**

All are welcome to help take down and put away the Advent and Christmas decorations following worship today. If you dedicated a poinsettia and would like to take it home, please do!

### **Handbells and Choir Rehearsals Resume Tuesday, January 9**

Handbells and choir will resume their usual Tuesday rehearsals this week. Handbells meet from 6:00—7:15 PM, with choir following from 7:30—8:45 PM.

### **Save the Date: Community BINGO & Nacho Night February 4**

Join us for BINGO and nachos from 5:30—7:00 PM on Sunday, February 4. This is a fun event for Memorial and the community, so please invite your friends! Free-will donations will go to the Good Samaritan Fund. Please note that children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

### **From Our Synod: “Israel - Hamas Conflict: Informational Session, All are Welcome”**

Join the Synod Peace Not Walls Working Group to learn more about the Israel-Hamas Conflict and hear updates about Gaza, the West Bank, and our partners. There will be a short time for questions and answers. This session will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, January 16 at 12:00 PM; please RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/41PkobD> or scan the QR code.



### **Donations Needed for Crisis in Middle East**

A word from our wider church body: *“Due to escalating conflict in Gaza and Israel, a severe humanitarian crisis is rapidly unfolding in the Holy Land. The ELCA has a longstanding relationship with partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital. Lutheran Disaster Response has a history of providing support for our partners and will be prepared to answer calls for assistance when the time comes.*

*Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts designated for “Middle East Crisis” will be restricted to and used in full (100%) for those affected by disasters in the region.”*

**Please go here to donate: <https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis>**

## A Special Note Regarding Tithe.ly Fees

We so appreciate all that give using the online/mobile giving platform Tithe.ly! If you haven't already, please consider including Tithe.ly processing fees as part of your one-time and recurring gifts. To do this, simply check the "Cover Fees" box when setting up your gift. If you have already set up a recurring gift and would like to start including the fees, you'll need to delete this gift and set it up again with "Cover Fees" checked.

## Important Reminder Regarding Giving to Special Projects

We so appreciate gifts received for special projects such as "A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place" (heating and cooling) and "Drive for the Drive" (pavement). If you would like to support these projects, please make sure to specify the project name with your gift. This ensures that your gift goes directly to the project and helps us keep an accurate record of funds received / still needed. Thank you for your support!

## Online Giving with Tithe.ly

Thank you for joining us for worship today! If you would like to support our ministries, online gifts can be made using <http://tithe.ly/give> or by scanning the QR code. ***Did you know?* In Tithe.ly, you can select to give to the General Fund, A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place (heating and cooling project), or the Drive for the Drive pavement project!**



### *Save the Date*

#### **Christmas De-decorating**

When: Sunday, January 7 following worship

#### **Handbells and Choir Rehearsals Resume**

When: Tuesday, January 9, Handbells: 6:00—7:15 PM, Choir: 7:30—8:45 PM

#### **Wednesday Night Live**

When: Wednesday, January 10, 6:30—7:30 PM

#### **Beer & Theology**

When: Thursday, February 1, 6:30 PM (first Thursday of every month)

Where: Cubbies on Main

#### **Community BINGO and Nachos Night**

When: Sunday, February 4, 5:30—7:00 PM

Where: MLC Fellowship Hall





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Memorial Lutheran

Memorial Lutheran ELCA

Kathleen Lotz, Pastor | Lois Theesfield, Director of Music Ministry  
Emily Dalthorp, Parish Administrator for Outreach & Engagement  
Mike Coverdale, Custodian