

WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

THE BIBLE – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

GOD – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

MAN – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

SIN – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

REDEMPTION – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

FAITH – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

THE CHURCH – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

SACRAMENTS – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper communicants receive in, with and under the bread and wine also Christ’s body and blood. Believing communicants receive this for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

SECOND COMING OF CHRIST – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

RESURRECTION – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

First Sunday after Epiphany – The Baptism of our Lord

January 8, 2023

INTROIT

Psalm 2:7-11, 12c; Antiphon: Isaiah 42:1a

*Behold my servant, whom / I uphold,**

my chosen, in whom my / soul delights.

*I will tell of / the decree:**

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have be- / gotten you.

*Ask of me, and I will make the nations your / heritage,**

and the ends of the earth your pos- / session.

*You shall break them with a / rod of iron**

and dash them in pieces like a potter's / vessel."

*Now therefore, O / kings, be wise;**

be warned, O rulers / of the earth.

*Serve the / LORD with fear,**

and rejoice with / trembling,

*for his wrath is quickly / kindled.**

Blessèd are all who take ref- / uge in him.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son*

and to the Holy / Spirit;

as it was in the be- / ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

*Behold my servant, whom / I uphold,**

my chosen, in whom my / soul delights.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

C **Amen**

GRADUAL

Psalm 117:1-2a; Psalm 96:8

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

bring an offering, and come into his courts!

RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition:

P *Lord, in Your mercy,*

C **hear our prayer.**

Isaiah 42:1-9 (ESV)

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the
nations.

² He will not cry aloud or lift up his
voice,
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not
quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be
discouraged
till he has established justice in the
earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched
them out,
who spread out the earth and what
comes from it,

who gives breath to the people on
it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ "I am the LORD; I have called you
in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep
you;

I will give you as a covenant for
the people,
a light for the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from
the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in
darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.

⁹ Behold, the former things have
come to pass,
and new things I now declare;

before they spring forth
I tell you of them."

Romans 6:1-11 (ESV)

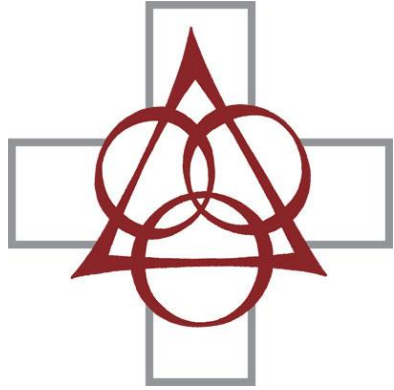
What shall we say then? Are we to
continue in sin that grace may abound?

² By no means! How can we who died
to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know
that all of us who have been baptized
into Christ Jesus were baptized into his
death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with
him by baptism into death, in order
that, just as Christ was raised from the
dead by the glory of the Father, we too
might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with
him in a death like his, we shall
certainly be united with him in a
resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that
our old self was crucified with him in
order that the body of sin might be
brought to nothing, so that we would
no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one
who has died has been set free from
sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ,
we believe that we will also live with
him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being
raised from the dead, will never die
again; death no longer has dominion
over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he
died to sin, once for all, but the life he
lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also
must consider yourselves dead to sin
and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 3:13-17 (ESV)

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”



THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD (First Sunday after the Epiphany)

Isaiah 42:1–9
Romans 6:1–11
Matthew 3:13–17

The Holy Triune God Is Manifested and Reveals Himself to Us in Holy Baptism

The Baptism of our Lord is an “Epiphany” of the one true God in the flesh and blood of Jesus. He is the chosen Servant of the Lord, anointed with the Spirit for the rescue of God’s people and “to bring forth justice to the nations” (Is. 42:1). Thus, He makes all things new, and He is given “as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations” (Is. 42:6). In the waters of the Jordan, He takes His place with sinners and takes all the sins of the world upon Himself. He undergoes the baptism of repentance in order to “fulfill all righteousness” for us (Matt. 3:15). He submits Himself to the curse of sin and death, in order to redeem us. We are baptized with a baptism like His, thereby dying and rising with Him, so that “we will also live with Him” (Rom. 6:8). Indeed, all of us who are baptized into Christ Jesus are anointed with His Spirit and named by His Father as beloved and well-pleasing sons and daughters.

Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:

January 15: Second Sunday after Epiphany (A)
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11 (v.3); 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42a