

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, believing communicants, with the bread and wine, also really receive Christ’s body and blood 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

January 9, 2022

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 begotten you.

*Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.*

*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.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
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; 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 43:1-7 (ESV)

But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
“Fear not, 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,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my
eyes,
and honored, and I love you,
I give men in return for you,
peoples in exchange for your life.

⁵ Fear not, 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 up,
and to the south, Do not withhold;
bring my sons from afar
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.”

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.

Luke 3:15-22 (ESV)

¹⁵ As the people were in
expectation, and all were questioning
in their hearts concerning John,
whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶
John answered them all, saying, “I
baptize you with water, but he who is
mightier than I is coming, the strap of
whose sandals I am not worthy to
untie. 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 barn, but the chaff he
will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations
he preached good news to the people.
¹⁹ But Herod the tetrarch, who had
been reproved by him for Herodias,
his brother’s wife, and for all the evil

things that Herod had done, ²⁰ added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD (First Sunday after the Epiphany)

Isaiah 43:1–7

Romans 6:1–11

Luke 3:15–22

The Triune God Opens Heaven to You in Holy Baptism

The Baptism of our Lord is an “Epiphany” of the one true God in the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. In divine mercy, He takes His place with sinners and takes their sin upon Himself. “*When all the people were baptized,*” Jesus submitted Himself to a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 3:21). He had no sins of His own, but He took the sins of the world upon Himself and so was baptized into His own death. Therefore, “*when you pass through the waters,*” He is with you (Is. 43:2). He created you for His glory, and He has redeemed you with His blood, that you may be His own and live with Him in His Kingdom (Is. 43:1, 7). As you are baptized with a baptism like His, so also are you united with Him in His death and resurrection that you “*might walk in newness of life*” (Rom. 6:4). For all who are baptized into Christ Jesus receive His anointing of the Holy Spirit and are named by His Father as beloved and well-pleasing sons and daughters.

Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:

January 16 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany (Series C):

Isaiah 62:1-5, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11