

St. Paul Lutheran Church, LCMS

503 S. State Street, Caro, MI 48723

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Rev. Richard Boshoven, Interim Pastor

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 11, 2026, 11:00 AM

Contemporary Service



AS WE GATHER

All people are descendants of the first man, Adam. After the worldwide flood of God's judgment of sin, Noah and his sons became the progenitors of all mankind. It was of the lineage of Shem (Genesis 11) that the man Abram was born. The descendants of Abram/Abraham were named Hebrews or Jews, after Judah, one of Jacob's sons; this naming pertained to all of Israel after the Babylonian exile. To this day, they are referred to as God's "chosen people" after the words of

Moses: "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth" (Deuteronomy 7:6). They were chosen to be the lineage of the Messiah, the deliverer, the Christ. Faithful to His promise, God took on flesh "of the house and lineage of David" (Luke 2:4) as the incarnate Son of God and Son of Mary of Nazareth.

Today we hear that divine promise in Isaiah 42, identifying Jesus as God's chosen servant. From the beginning, however, we are told He is not only to be King of the Jews alone but a light to lighten the Gentiles also. The great news is that He is the Savior of and for all people, the descendants not only of Abraham but also of Adam and Noah! By repentance of sin and faith in Christ, worked by the same Spirit that marked Jesus as the chosen one at His Baptism, now all who are baptized into Christ—Jew or Gentile—are the chosen people of God. Praising and thanking God for calling and saving us, we echo the Gospel to all people in the words of the Psalm: "Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples!" (Psalm 117:1).



FOR THOSE DESIRING HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor. For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.)

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

“Grace Alone”

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus)

**Ev'ry promise we can make, ev'ry prayer and step of faith
Ev'ry diff'rence we will make is only by His grace.
Eve'ry mountain we will climb, ev'ry ray of hope we shine,
Ev'ry blessing left behind is only by His grace.**

Chorus:

**Grace alone which God supplies,
strength unknown He will provide.
Christ in us, our cornerstone,
we will go forth in grace alone.**

**Ev'ry soul we long to reach, ev'ry heart we hope to teach,
Ev'ry-where we share His peace is only by His grace.
Ev'ry loving word we say, ev'ry tear we wipe away,
Ev'ry sorrow turned to praise is only by His grace.**

Chorus:

WELCOME

(Please stand)

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 43:4; Psalm 117

I will go to the altar of God,

to God my exceeding joy.

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. Praise the LORD!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Jesus Christ is God's chosen one, who came and who comes again today to call everyone to salvation from sin and death and who makes all who are baptized in His name to be the chosen sons and daughters of God. Marked by the sacred waters of Holy Baptism, let us receive God's assurance and promise of forgiveness.

Almighty God, our dear Father in heaven, in Holy Baptism You have marked us with the sign of the holy cross upon our foreheads and upon our hearts to mark us as people of Your choosing to be redeemed by Christ the crucified. Open our eyes to Your light of freedom and forgiveness and to Your calling of us to be Your own chosen people of Your eternal kingdom.

Upon this your confession, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit, has forgiven you all your sins. God strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

Amen.

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,**
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Blessèd 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.**

(Please be seated)

SONG OF PRAISE

“Hide Me In Your Holiness”

(Repeat once)

**Hide me, Lord, in Your holiness,
Ev’ry sin I now confess.
Praise to you, forgiving Lord,
Hide me in Your holiness, Hide me in your holiness.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.

Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

¹Behold 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.
²He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
³a bruised reed he will not break,

and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

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

⁵Thus 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,
⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

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

⁹Behold, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: Romans 6:1-11

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We 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.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We 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. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And 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; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with

glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG OF THE MONTH:

“Fishers of Men”

I will make you fishers of men, fishers of men, fishers of men.

I will make you fishers of men if you follow Me.

If you follow Me, if you follow Me;

I will make you fishers of men if you follow Me.

Hear Christ calling, “Come unto Me. Come unto Me, Come unto Me.”

Hear Christ calling, “Come unto Me; I will give you rest.

I will give you rest; I will give you rest.”

Hear Christ calling, “Come unto Me; I will give you rest.”

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY

“Father Welcomes”

(Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus)

Chorus:

Father welcomes all his children to his fam’ly through his Son.

Father giving his salvation, Life forever has been won.

Little children, come to me, for my kingdom is of these.

Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. Chorus

In the water, in the Word, in His promise, be assured:

Those who are baptized and believe, Shall be born again. Chorus

Let us daily die to sin; let us daily rise with him

Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God.

Chorus

MESSAGE

OFFERING *(Please fill out the fellowship pad beside you)*

(Please stand)

PRAYERS

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.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

HOLY COMMUNION

(Visitors, please read the statement at the beginning of this service folder.)

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

(Please be seated)

RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER

DISTRIBUTION SONG

“Once Again”

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus)

**Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice;
You became nothing, poured out to death.
Many times I’ve wondered at Your gift of life,
And I’m in that place once again.
I’m in that place once again.**

Chorus:

**Once again I look upon the cross where You died.
I’m humbled by Your mercy and I’m broken inside.
Once again I thank You, once again I pour out my life.**

**Now You are exalted to the highest place,
King of the heavens, where one day I’ll bow.
But, for now, I marvel at this saving grace,
And I’m full of praise once again.
I’m full of praise once again.**

Chorus:

Bridge

**Thank You for the cross. Thank you for the cross.
Thank You for the cross, my Friend. (repeat)**

DISTRIBUTION SONG

“You Are My All in All”

(Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus)

Chorus:

**Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name;
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.**

**You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the treasure that I seek,
You are my all in all;
Seeking You as a precious jewel,
Lord, to give up, I’d be a fool,
You are my all in all. Chorus**

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,
Rising again, I bless Your name,
You are my all in all;
When I fall down, You pick me up,
When I am dry, You fill my cup,
You are my all in all. Chorus

(Please stand)

PRAYER OF THANKS

Amen

BLESSING

(Please be seated)

SONG TO DEPART “Jude’s Charge”

(Three Verses)

**You, my friends, build each other up.
You, my friends, build each other up.
In strong faith, pray: “Spirit, fill my cup.”
You, my friends, build each other up.**

**Keep yourselves in God’s love.
Keep yourselves in God’s love,
As you wait for mercy from above.
Keep yourselves in God’s love.**

**To God be glory, now and ever more!
To God be glory, now and ever more!
To stand before Him, Christ is the door.
To God be glory, now and ever more!
To God be glory, now and ever more!**

LEAVING

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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