



*There stood the Son of God
in love,
His grace to us extending;
The Holy Spirit like a dove
Upon the scene
descending;
The triune God assuring us,
With promises compelling,
That in our Baptism He will
thus
Among us find a dwelling
To comfort and sustain us.*

LSB 406:4

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A Member of
Lutheran Church Canada



2025 THEME FOR BEREА & ZION

COME AND SEE!

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

Come and experience the faith that ties us together and keeps us at Berea and Zion. In a world of increasing uncertainty, you and I are encouraged to live and share the basics of our faith that keeps us here. It is vital, life and eternal life changing, to know Jesus, our Saviour who lived, suffered, died, and rose, for us, to set us free from the control of evil.

Our faith is grounded in the Good News that Jesus lives... the victory is won. Living the victorious life means that Jesus is an ever-present source of peace, comfort and hope in our lives. This year let's open doors for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts and minds of our families, friends and community by warmly inviting them to... "COME AND SEE"!

BEREA & ZION GUESTS

At the end of worship we would like to invite you to please take a moment to sign our guest book in the foyer.

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Welcome in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour! It's great to have you with us today! If you're here because you're looking for a church family to be a part of, we're always excited to unite brothers and sisters in Christ.
Talk to Pastor John today.*

The Baptism of our Lord ~ January 12, 2025

As We Gather

Today is the first of the bookends that mark the Epiphany season - the Baptism of Our Lord and His Transfiguration. In common is the command from God to "listen to Him." We begin our journey of listening to the Lord, learning from those who went before, acknowledging the revelation of the Lamb of God in baptismal water, and looking to Him, the Word made flesh. In His Baptism, our Lord was not washed because He was unclean but because we are. The Father saw the prophetic words of Isaiah fulfilled in the water of the Jordan, and He claimed Jesus as His own Son and our appointed Redeemer. "You are Mine," said the Lord to Jesus. Because He said those words to Jesus, they are now addressed to us-the people for whom Jesus was baptized.

WELCOME AND SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

An Epiphany Reading – Matthew 2:1-12

P: Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "*In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'*"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and



A BRIEF SELF-EXAMINATION BEFORE THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- ~ I recognize that I fall short of God's expectations of me, and I humbly confess to Him all my sins, and sincerely repent of them.
- ~ I believe and confess that Jesus Christ is my Lord and He died for the forgiveness of all my sins. Jesus is the only Saviour from sin, death and the power of the devil.
- ~ I am reconciled to anyone who would have anything against me to the best of my abilities.
- ~ I believe that the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ my Saviour are REALLY present in, with, and under the Bread and Wine of Holy Communion to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, and to strengthen my union with Him and fellow believers.
- ~ With God's help, I intend to amend my sinful life and live a life of service to Him through regular worship, sacrificial giving and thankful living.

Lutheran Church-Canada (LC-C) congregations practice close(d) communion, (*current communicant members of this congregation and those sister congregations in altar fellowship with us*), believing that the Bible encourages unity in belief for those receiving the sacrament together.

Other guests wishing to join our confession and receive this Holy Sacrament or to inquire about our beliefs further are asked to meet with the pastor prior to communing for the first time.

For those NOT communing, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing. Please indicate you want a blessing only by placing your arms across your chest.

when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”

After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

Opening Hymn

399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

***1 The star proclaims the King is here;
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For He who offers heav'nly birth
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.***

***2 The eastern sages saw from far
And followed on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they trod
And by their gifts confessed their God.***

***3 Within the Jordan's sacred flood
The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood
That He, of whom no sin was known,
Might cleanse His people from their own.***

***4 And oh, what miracle divine,
When water reddened into wine!
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed
In streams that nature ne'er bestowed.***

***5 For this Thy glad epiphany
All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.***

Invocation and Opening Sentences

P: We come together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

P: With these words you are baptized into Christ and given the new birth of water and the Spirit.

C: So shall we stand in faith without fear now and forever.

Confession and Absolution

P: When we examine our hearts and consciences, we find that we daily struggle against our weakness and sin that so easily catch us. Therefore, we confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

C: Father, though You have made us Your own possession by our Baptism into Christ, we still struggle to live as Your redeemed children in this broken and sin-filled world. Therefore, we confess our sins to You and ask for Your mercy to forgive us and grant us Your grace and strength.

P: Almighty God who has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

Hymn of Praise

This Is the Feast (LSB 155)

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honour, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

4 Blessing, honour, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

5 For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: *We 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.*

C: **AMEN**

+ WORD +

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

("I have called you by name, you are Mine.")

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. 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. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honoured, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. 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, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 6:1-11

(By Baptism, we were united with Christ into His death and resurrection.)

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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. 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. 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. For one who has died has been set free from sin.

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:15-22

(Jesus is baptized in the Jordan River by John.)

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, 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. 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."

So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. 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, added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, 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."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Profession of Faith

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 worshipped 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

Children's Talk (Zion)

Hymn of the Day 405 To Jordan's River Came Our Lord

***1 To Jordan's river came our Lord,
The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,
The God from God, the Light from Light,
The Lord of glory, pow'r, and might.***

***2 The Saviour came to be baptized-
The Son of God in flesh disguised-
To stand beneath the Father's will
And all His righteousness fulfill.***

*3 As Jesus in the Jordan stood
And John baptized the Lamb of God,
The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove,
Descended on Him from above.*

*4 Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound
Came God's own voice with words profound:
"This is My Son," was His decree,
"The one I love, who pleases Me."*

*5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight
Anointed Christ in glorious sight
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall
To save the world and free us all.*

*6 Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;
This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.*

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Sermon

The Offerings Are Gathered

(The Offertory Prayer is sung as the offerings are brought forward)

*We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

*May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!*

Prayers of the Church

P: Jesus, in Jordan's baptismal waters, You fulfilled the word of the prophet and took our sins, and washed us clean. Grant that we may rejoice in our own Baptisms, bringing hope by being marked as on of Your very own. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, You have called us by name and placed on us Your name and Your grace. Give now Your Spirit that we may hear Jesus and His love through the Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Spirit, equip all pastors and church workers to be faithful servants to support and care for Your people in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Spirit, guide the leaders of our country with Your Word that they would act with integrity and serve in accord with Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, give to Your people generous hearts that as richly as we have received, we may also give. Bless the offerings we bring in praise and thanks for all Your goodness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, be with the troubled in mind, the wounded in body, and the broken in spirit. We especially lift up ... and all in our hearts. May they know Your presence in their hour of need and grant healing, comfort, and peace according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, as we approach the altar this day, create in us repentant hearts and faith that what we receive would bless us and strengthen us in the one true faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Holy Spirit, we rejoice with those celebrating birthdays, baptismal birthdays, and anniversaries this week. We thank you for the blessings of the past and entrust them to your future care.

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayers.**

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **AMEN**

+ CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER +

(The communion candles are lit at this time)

Luther's Admonition to the Communicants

P: I exhort you in Christ that you give attention to the Testament of Christ in true faith, and above all take to heart the words with which Christ presents His body and blood to us for forgiveness; that you take note and give thanks for the boundless love that He showed us when He saved us from the wrath of God, sin, death, and hell by His blood; and that you then externally receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a guarantee and pledge. Let us then in His name, according to His command, and with His own words administer and receive the Testament.

LW p. 197-198

Sanctus

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Day and night we join to praise Your love and majesty.
You alone are holy, worthy and righteous.
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!***

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
We rejoice to join the hymns Of earth and sky and sea.
Generations praise you, with the saints and angels
Holy, blessed through all eternity.***

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

Words of Institution

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24;

Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Peace of the Lord

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: AMEN

Agnus Dei

*O Lamb of God, we pray: Take all our sins away --
Our faith increase.*

*Have mercy on us all, Strengthen us when we fall,
Answer our fervent call And grant us peace.*

Distribution of Communion

Distribution Hymn 618 I Come, O Saviour, to Thy Table

*1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole: Refrain.*

*ref. Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

*2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
So I, a sinner, come to Thee. Refrain.*

*3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art: Refrain.*

*4 Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. Refrain.*

*5 What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace. Refrain.*

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Dismissing of Communicants

P: May this holy and precious body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in the true faith body to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

C: AMEN

Post-Communion Prayer

P: *Let us pray.* O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favour and give you peace.

C: **AMEN**

Closing Hymn

GPS 14 Song For Epiphany

*1 Open your eyes, let My light fill your darkness.
Open your heart, let My love fill your life.
Take all I have, it is yours given freely,
And shine, shine, as you walk in the Light.*

*2 I am the Light, I will brighten your pathways;
I am the Way, I will light up your night.
I am the Truth of your Father who loves you,
So shine, shine, as you walk in the Light.*

*3 Come unto Me when your burdens grow heavy.
Tell Me your wrongs, for I've made all things right.
There on the cross I achieved your forgiveness;
So shine, shine, as you walk in the Light.*

*4 You are My child, you're the heir of My kingdom;
One day you'll live in My glory so bright.
By word and deed until then now proclaim Me,
And shine, shine, as you walk in the Light.*

Announcements and Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

BEREA

Organist: Bill Irwin
Altar Guild: Kevin & Heather Ball
Elders: Kevin Ball, Chuck Becker
For Prayer: Lilo 226 421-2436, Elizabeth 237-3622

ZION

Organist: Joanne Maguire
Altar Guild: C. Freiter / N. Rader
Elders: Ken Rader, Lorne Koch, Tom Hayter, Randy Bowers,
Jeff Miller
For Prayer: Nancy 237-3653, Brenda 237-3789
Children's Talk: Cindy Hamather

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