



**Baptism of our Lord**  
**First Sunday after the Epiphany**

Sunday, January 9, 2022  
First Lutheran Church – Sandpoint, ID

**Introduction to the day**

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters ... the rivers ... fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus.

## PRELUDE / GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (ELW p. 97)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### GATHERING SONG *Drawn to the Light* (ELW 593)

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7**

*Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.*

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;

<sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, “Give them up,”  
and to the south, “Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.”

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17**

*Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.*

<sup>14</sup>Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup>The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup>(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup>Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Christ, Be Our Light* (ELW 715) Verse 1**

**\*GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

*The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead, he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. 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 - *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* (ELW 249)  
Verses 1, 3, and 5**

### **\*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**

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*A brief silence.*

By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need (*especially*). God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace (*especially*). Comfort us in grief and release us from fear. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, while remaining in your pew.*

## **THANKSGIVING**

## **OFFERING – (Reflective Music for Time of Gratitude)**

*Take this time to reflect upon what you are grateful for as you live in the Light of Christ.*

*Offerings may be placed in the plates as you go out from this worship,*

*Or you can give online <https://firstlutheransandpoint.breezechms.com/give/online>.*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **\*BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

### **\*MISSION**

This is the Mission that we share in Christ's name:

**To Praise God, Nurture Faith, and Serve All.**

**\*SENDING SONG *Let All Things Now Living* (ELW 881)**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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**WORSHIP NOTES:**

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**Worship Team:**

Piano: Colleen Culwell  
Pastors – Barbara Rolph and Steve Neuder  
AV/Tech - Scott Youngren and Don Farnham

**Office Contact Information:** 208-263-2048 office@firstlutheransandpoint.org

**Prayers** – Gerda Burke, Barb Wilson, Roy Gilbreath, Brett Peterson, Milt Jacobs, Jack and Darlene Dickman, Kathy Bradetich, Don Harms, Steve Harms, Debbie Haberlock, Mary Laker, David Hollyer, Frances Cavagnaro, Carrie Cummings, Alyssa Grant, Betty Mitchell, George Marker, Chris Ingham; Charles Shobe Sr., Nicky Schripsema, Kara Schripsema, Trey Haberlock, Tom Taylor, Hunter Taylor; Mike Shobe; Marguerite Suttmeier, Janet Merrill, and those on your hearts and minds today.

The Family and Friends of Dorothy Handy who died recently.

Luther Park residents, their families, and staff. All healthcare workers and facilities trying to offer care during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Special Thanks to the “Elves” who pulled together to put away the Christmas decorations!

**Save the Dates:**      **Congregation Budget Meeting:**      **January 23<sup>rd</sup> after Services.**  
**Annual Congregation Meeting and Elections:**      **February 6<sup>th</sup> after Services.**  
**These Meetings will be available in person in the Fellowship Hall and also via Zoom.**

FLC Office Staff: Qualified office staff are essential to smooth operation of the FLC Congregation. We have advertised and interviewed candidates over the past months and weeks. A very well qualified candidate accepted our offer with intentions to begin work this past week. Unfortunately, this candidate has decided to move to Boise because of housing issues. We need to keep our office open at least on a reduced schedule. We can be flexible on timing and work assignments. I am asking for suggestions and volunteers to help us meet this challenge until we find a permanent solution. If you can help or know of someone who might be able to help, please let me or the Council know.

Huge thanks to Lisa Tyrrell for managing our office for many months on a volunteer basis. Lisa will continue to help us until the Annual Meeting, but then may not be available.

Looking forward to your suggestions and help. **Jim Carlson, Council President**