



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 C.R. 128 & U.S. Rt. 20

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

93.1FM

Church: 419-332-6820

faithchurch@amplex.net

www.faithfremont.org

Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 2025

Setting 3 with Holy Communion

*Congregation please stand as you are able.

Introduction

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, in bread and wine.

(8:00) Prelude:

What Star Is This?

F. Ritter

(10:30) Prelude:

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

G. Lachenauer

Welcome & Announcements: Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

***(8:00) Gathering Song:**

Pass It On

1. It only takes a spark to get a fire going
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing
That's how it is with God's love, Once you've experienced it
You spread His love to everyone, You want to pass it on.
2. What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding.
The birds begin to sing; The flowers start their blooming.
That's how it is with God's love, Once you've experienced it
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring; You want to pass it on.
3. I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found.
You can depend on Him, It matters not where you're bound.
I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know;
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.
I'll shout it from the mountain top - PRAISE GOD!
I want the world to know,
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

GATHERING

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

***Greeting**

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

C: And also with you.

***Invitation to Worship**

P: When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, then the work of Christmas begins:

C: To find the lost

To heal those broken in spirit

To feed the hungry

To release the oppressed

To rebuild the nations

To bring peace among all peoples

To make a little music with our hearts.

P: And to radiate the Light of Christ every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say.

C: Then the work of Christmas begins.

P: Rise up in splendor, your light has come. The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

C: Let the work of Christmas begin, and let it begin with us.

(Howard Thurman, author)

P: May the Lord be with us.

C: Amen.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.**

Show us your lovingkindness.

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.**

Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In **✝** Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

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.

R: A reading from Isaiah, the 43rd chapter.

¹ 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.

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,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Do not fear, 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 them up,"

and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

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."

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- ³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- ⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests
bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
- ¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

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.

R: A reading from Acts, the eighth chapter.

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

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation: Lord, I Lift Your Name on High TBOB 151**
Lord, I lift Your name on high: Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I'm so glad You're in my life: I'm so glad You came to save us.
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

***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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² 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.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: 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.

**C: We give you thanks, holy and gracious God,
for you created the waters of the earth:
wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, mighty rivers.
You led your people through the sea and called them to life in
covenant with you. Your Son was baptized in the river Jordan to
begin his mission among us. You pour out your Holy Spirit to
renew the face of the earth. Through this water remind us of the
gift of baptism. Renew us in your promise so that we may serve
this world in all its need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**P: Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit
and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the
power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ
our Lord.**

C: Amen.

***Sermon Hymn:**

When Jesus Came to Jordan

ELW 305

***Apostles' 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**

P: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P: You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery, *especially those we name at this time (Pause for people to be named)*. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

(10:30) Sr. Choir: *Come to the Water* J. Foley, arr. Hasseler

Offering *We Are an Offering* TBOB 231

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,

we lift our lives up to you, we are an offering.

**Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives,
they are Yours, we are an offering, we are an offering.**

*Offering Prayer

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:

our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.

C: **Amen.**

*The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

***Thanksgiving at the Table**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Lord's Prayer**

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

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

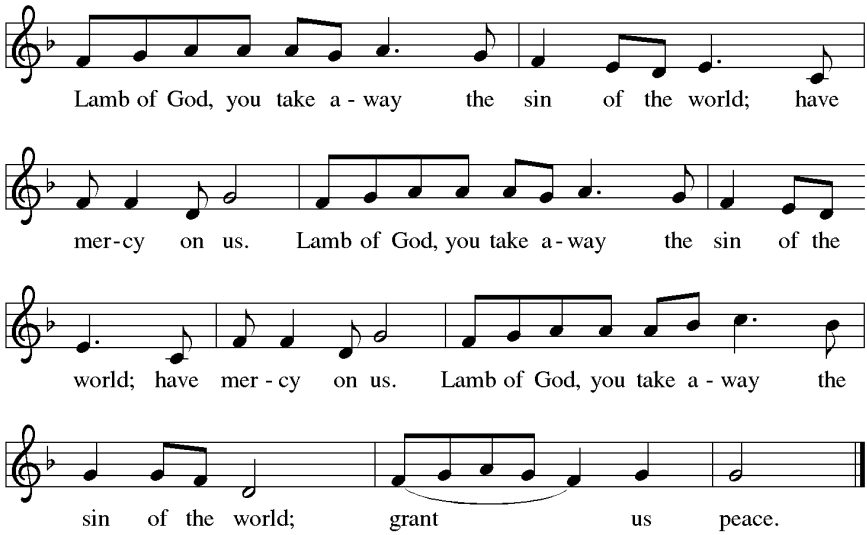
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution of Communion

Communion will be continuous. The ushers will invite you to come forward by the center aisle. You will be handed the bread with the words, "The Body of Christ given for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!". Step to the Communion Assistant and take the cup. They will speak the words, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!" Empty cups may be placed in the basket as you return to your seat by the side aisle.

If you prefer gluten-free bread, please let the Pastor know. If you prefer grape juice, please let the Communion Assistant know. If you prefer not to receive or have children who have not yet received, please let the Pastor know and he will offer a blessing.

Communion Hymns:

(8:00) TBOB 66 *Glorify Thy Name*

(8:00) TBOB 44 *Emmanuel*

(10:30) ELW 464 *Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal*

(10:30) ELW 453 *Baptized and Set Free*

***Post Communion Blessing**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

***Prayer After Communion**

P: Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen.

SENDING

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

***Blessing**

P: The Spirit of the triune God
✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.

C: Amen.

(8:00) Sending Song: *Let There Be Peace on Earth

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me:
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**

***(10:30) Sending Song: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* ELW 543**

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

***(8:00) Postlude:** *Let There Be Peace on Earth* **Kurt Kaiser**

***(10:30) Postlude:** *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* **H. Balcombe**

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IN BAPTISM YOU CALLED JESUS — AND YOU CALL US — “beloved.” May we grow in your love, God, and share it with others.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Bob Siefke. Bob joined the church triumphant on Sunday, January 5, 2025.

CHURCH COUNCIL will be held on Monday, January 20th, at 7 p.m. instead of Tuesday the 21st, with Executive Council at 6:30 p.m. Thank you.

HERMAN FUNERAL HOMES, LLC, will be hosting Monarch Grief Center for a lunch and discussion on **Grief: Helping Yourself and Others** at 900 North Street, Fremont, Ohio on **Friday, January 24th, 2025** from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. You are invited! Are you or someone you know struggling with the loss of a loved one? Please RSVP by January 20, 2025 to 419-332-7391.

GIVING STATEMENTS FOR 2024 are available in the Narthex for you to pick up at your convenience.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the narthex. If you have not picked yours up yet, please do so.

CHURCH TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES AND THE F.L.C.W. PROGRAM BOOKLETS for 2025 are available in the narthex for you as well.

REMINDER... *When Sandusky County is under a Level 3 Snow Advisory the church will be closed. This includes Sunday services as well as all weekday events, meetings and activities for that day. If we are under a level 1 or 2 snow emergency, the church will be open and if it's on a day of worship, we will have worship.*

CHRISTIAN MISSION AND OUTREACH

During these cold, winter months we will be collecting items to donate to Pontifex to help keep homeless folks in our community warm. The mission of Pontifex is to provide hope, health, and healing to folks in need. Our mission and action team is purchasing coffee and hot chocolate at this time. There is a short list of other items needed right now: Warm Winter Coats, Mittens, Scarves, Caps. There is a box in the narthex in which you are invited to place your donations for those folks who are less fortunate. We will be gathering these items through January. Let's show God's love and care to those in need.

HURRICANE HELENE UPDATE: On **January 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**, come join Dan HineLine and two friends from Journey Church, John and Leonard, who accompanied him to North Carolina two months ago to take supplies down and help with Hurricane Helene clean-up. Dan will be showing slides of the devastation they saw and what their group of 17 men and women from Journey did while they were down there. Light refreshments will be served. Teri HineLine has been in contact with Gina Snyder from Asheville, NC who is a volunteer helping to stock small cabins that have been built for those who have nowhere to go and have been living in tents. For 24 of those families, she said the first thing they will see when they open the door is one of the quilts the Faith Sew Ladies made. Teri will share her text conversations with Gina with you and any new information Gina may have. Please come and share this evening with us.

ASSISTING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Darla Brown **Pianist:** Becky Fox

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown **Flautist:** Marilyn Ring

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Den & Deb Fahle Lillian Harder

Lector: Kim Smith Evan McBride

Acolyte: Easton Root Evan McBride

Communion: K. Smith/D. Fahle N. Leutenegger & G. Walker

Counters: Marie Reisel* & Nicole Weiker

Fellowship Time Host:

Altar Guild: Brenda Tooman & Kim Smith

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Darla Brown

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: John & Judi Neill Gary & Mary Lou Cooper

Lector: Julia Norris Randy Koch

Acolyte: Julia Norris

Communion: C. Paeth/J. Neill C. Trick & R. Koch

Counters: Laurie Krynock* & Randy Koch

Fellowship Time Host:

Altar Guild: Brenda Tooman & Kim Smith

PRAYING DAILY



For healing and hope: Pat Copley, Connie Diekman, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Bill Leutenegger, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Gary Overmyer, Letty Rusch, Bob Schneider, Bill Seibert, Dorothy Swedersky, Janet Tressler, Carnetta Weber, Linda Woessner. Sue Baker, Cameron Druyor, Allen Gazdecki, Kyla Johnson, Jeff Opelt, Betsy Schwab.

For the Family of: Bob Siefke, Phyllis Pollock

For our Military: Noah Egbert, Troy Halfhill, Jade Kayser, Daniel Linder, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.

For our Bishops: Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania

And its pastor: Pastor Peter Magasi

FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF – Jan. 12 to Jan. 19

Sunday

Jan. 12-----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

Monday

Jan. 13-----8 a.m. Men’s Group in Fellowship Hall
 10 a.m. Valley View Tea Time with God
 11:30 a.m. FLCW Visitation at Bob Evan’s
 7:30 p.m. Dartball – Away vs. Zion

Tuesday

Jan. 14-----7 p.m. Music Worship Committee

Wednesday

Jan. 15-----6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:30 p.m. Praise Choir
 7:30 p.m. Sr. Choir

Thursday

Jan. 16-----9-3 p.m. Fellowship & Sew Day
 3 p.m. Christ Care
 5-9 p.m. Hall Reserved – Heidi Tooman

Friday

Jan. 17-----

Saturday

Jan. 18-----9:15 a.m. Christ Care

Sunday

Jan. 19-----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time
 7 p.m. Hurricane Helene Update with Pictures of NC

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025: ATTENDANCE: 125 – OFFERING: \$3,831.67

GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 12, 2025
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Filled with Expectation

At the beginning of the Epiphany season, we encounter John the baptizer, serving people who are filled with expectation. Curiosity is the birthplace of expectation. Many people were curious about whether John might be the expected messiah. They were hopeful that the dreams of their people were about to be fulfilled by this strange and solitary prophet.

Sometimes we are exuberant when our expectations are fulfilled. We know this feeling when a new baby is born, a family member graduates from college or attains a new job, or a summer vacation is around the corner. Other times, we are devastated by unfulfilled expectations—when a loved one dies in hospice, a pink slip is given at work, or a house is foreclosed.

Expectation can lead to great happiness or to depression. John's followers' expectations were correct but misplaced. John redirected their hopes to Jesus, who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

In what ways can we joyfully expect God's good work in our own lives? Have we put our hope in people or things guaranteed to disappoint us? How might life be different if we put all our hope for the future in the good plan of God?

At Jesus' baptism, the heavens opened and a dove descended. Then God spoke these life-changing and transformative words: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22).

When we were baptized, God spoke words like these over us as well. As creations made in God's own image, we are innately beloved and pleasing to God. May this truth change how we navigate through the world and fill us with joyful expectation for God's good plan to come.