



Christ Lutheran Church
3384 Island Road, Wantagh, NY 11793

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The Baptism of Our Lord (Year A)

The Holy Eucharist ♦ January 11, 2026 ♦ 9:00AM

WELCOME!

It is an honor to have you here for worship. We hope you will feel safe and comfortable in this holy house. A few notes to help you along the way:

- Most of what you will need is printed in this bulletin.
- *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) is the source for hymns which are listed by number in the upper right- or left-hand corner of the page.

PROVIDING FOR THE YOUNGEST SAINTS

Children learn to worship by participating in the liturgy. The worship of the whole community is enhanced by their involvement. Should your little one need a break, please feel free to move about, to step out for a moment, or to make use of the prayer-ground as may be helpful.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

All are welcome to receive the Sacrament. You may commune in either or both elements of bread and wine. The ushers will direct you forward via the center aisle. You have options!

- You may take an empty cup from a tray and hold onto it. You will then be given the bread to consume before approaching a minister who will fill your cup from a pouring chalice. After consuming the wine, please place the cup in the receptacle as you return to your place.
- You may bypass the small cup, receive the bread, then dip it into the chalice before consuming it.
- If you prefer not to receive the Sacrament, please cross your arms before your chest and you will be offered a blessing.

A star () invites you to stand as you are able.*

THE GATHERING RITE

* CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Pastor: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely. Mighty God, lover of justice,

People: you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Pastor: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

All: Amen.

* GATHERING HYMN #423: SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER

*** GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE: NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION (HAUGEN)**



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 42:1-9

Lector: A reading from Isaiah.

Here is 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. He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus 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 upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from

the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29

*The psalm will be read responsively; the people will read the **bold** text.*

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the glory of God thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.

The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

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!"

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.

O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.
like showers that water the earth.

THE SECOND LESSON: ACTS 10:34-43

Lector: A reading from Acts.

Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: CELTIC ALLELUIA**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a Celtic Alleluia. Both staves are in the treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below each staff, with hyphens indicating the syllables are spread across the notes.

*** THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:13-17**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

*** HYMN OF THE DAY #304: CHRIST, WHEN FOR US YOU WERE BAPTIZED**

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition concludes, "Merciful God..." to which the people are invited to respond, "Receive our prayer."

Pastor: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

People: Amen.

THE MEAL

* THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY: RIVER OF GLORY (PIANO)

* OFFERTORY HYMN: GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE (VERSES 2&3)



- 1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;
now ye hear of end-less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Deacon: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

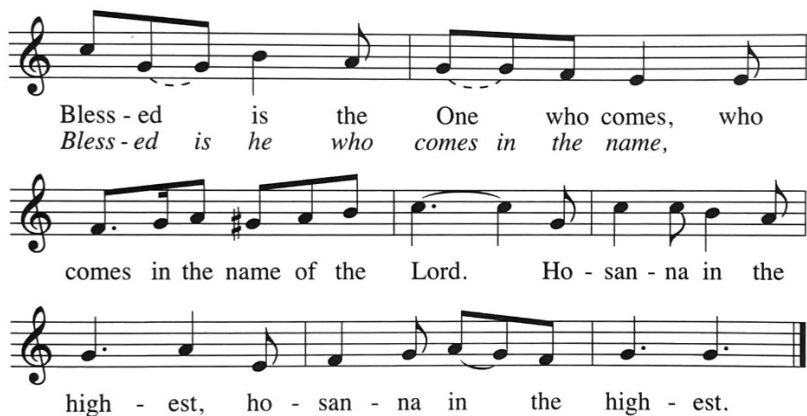
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

* SANCTUS

The musical score for the Sanctus is written on three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 6/8 time signature. It contains the melody for the first line of the hymn. Above the staff, the word "All" is written. Below the staff, the lyrics "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord," are written. The second staff continues the melody and includes the lyrics "God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are". The third staff concludes the phrase with the lyrics "full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The time signature changes from 6/8 to 3/8 at the beginning of the third staff.

All
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Pastor: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life... In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to the 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. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: 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.

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

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



* THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People: 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

Pastor: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

* LAMB OF GOD





COMMUNION HYMN #396: SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS

* POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: May this, the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you ever in his grace.

People: Amen.

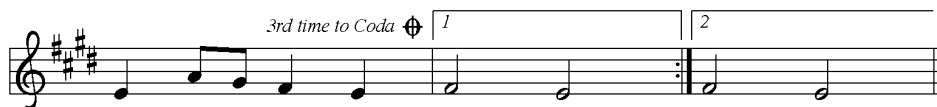
* SONG AFTER COMMUNION: PRAISE TO YOU, O GOD OF MERCY



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



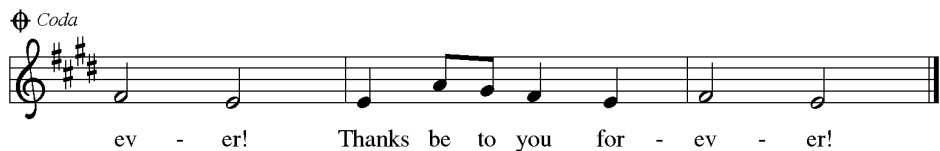
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -



*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Deacon: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to
your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives
may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we
have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

THE SENDING RITE

*** BLESSING**

Pastor: *The blessing is pronounced.*

People: Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN #310: SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE**

*** DISMISSAL**

Deacon: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

People: Thanks be to God.

Today's altar flowers are given in honor of Doris & Roger Ohlander's wedding anniversary and Barbara Rath's birthday by Jeri Hallgren.

Serving Today

Presiding Minister/Preacher: The Rev. Susan F. Sprowls, *Interim Pastor*

Deacon: Roxanne Toomey

Director of Music: Nicole Nicholson

Organist: Kamelija Galijan-Curry

Altar Guild: Regina Coons, Doris Ohlander

Communion Assistant: Elaine DiChiara

Counters: Doris & Roger Ohlander, Barbara Rath, Gene Veltri

Ushers: Robert Ahearn and John Gross

Coffee Hour Hosts: The Schmitt Family

Announcements

An opportunity to review and discuss the proposed budget for 2026 will be offered following worship today. Hans Vogel looks forward to answering your questions and hearing your suggestions.

Electronic copies of the proposed revisions to the CLC constitution have been distributed to church members. If you did not receive a copy or would prefer a hard copy, please contact the church office. We will offer an opportunity to review and discuss the proposed constitution following worship next Sunday, January 18th. Kirsten Duprez, Claudia Gross, and Pastor Sprowls will be happy to share this time with you.

In February and March, WELCA and Thrivent plan to assemble and ship personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief to help people who are victims of natural disasters or political upheaval. We are looking for members of the congregation to donate bath towels (preferably dark colors), bath-size soap bars (4 to 5 oz. each), adult toothbrushes in original packaging, sturdy, medium to wide-tooth combs and nail clippers. We especially need bath towels. Donated items can be left in the box in the narthex. You can also donate money for this project. Please send checks payable to WELCA to the church office. Thank you for any help you can give to this worthwhile project.

The 2026 Annual Meeting

Save the date! The 2026 Annual Meeting will be held after 9AM worship service on **Sunday, January 25th**. Church committees and organizations should be in the process of completing their 2025 Annual Reports. Please speak with a Council member if you have any questions. Annual Reports **must** be submitted to the church office **by end of day (2:30PM) on Friday, January 16th**. In order to hold the Annual Meeting, a minimum of **ten percent** of the church membership must be in attendance. Christian Education classes will not be held on this day. Please do all you can to be available. *The future of Christ Lutheran depends on decisions made here!*

St. John's Food Pantry

As SNAP and other benefits are being reduced or rescinded, donations of food and personal care items are needed now more than ever. Please place donations in the box in Room 2000. Needed items include beef/chicken stew, canned chicken, cooking oil, coffee, corned beef hash, noodles, hot cereal, hot chocolate, ketchup, mustard, pancake mix & syrup, toilet paper, peanut butter & jelly, salad dressing, birthday cake items, shelf-stable milk, facial tissue, paper towels, shampoo, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene items. *Please check the expiration dates before donating.*



We Remember Those on the Prayer List

Judy Angeloch, Edward Brady, Kathleen Cardone, Becky Carlson, Regina Coons, Sal and Sue Costanzo, Alison Daurio, Joan Drake, Kelly Dempsey, Lynn Deere, Logan Dunne, Betty Gibberman, Bill Gilmor, Emmy Grenzign, Barbara Grieser, Theresa Heenan, Arnold Howard, Ruth Kollar, Susan & George Kremer, Jean Leib, Chris Mantay, Mary Ellen Massaro, Janet and William McShea, Marilyn Miller, Lilly Ann Munnich, John Nittoli, James Pallas, Joy Polet, Barbara and Gary Proce, Catherine, Terri and Della Rao, John Reardon, Emmett and Rose Reilly, Ann and Barbara Reimer, Della Dorn Rice, Bob Rimbo, Kay Riese, Anne Scheirer, Joseph Arthur Skorupski, Donna Smith, Natalie Stone, James Toomey, Nancy Valenti, Laura Vogel. To update a name on the prayer list, please contact the church office.

Congregation Council

The Reverend Susan F. Sprowls, *Interim Pastor*
Matt Murphy, *President* • Kirsten Duprez, *Vice President*
Claudia Gross, *Secretary* • Robert Ahearn • George Balduf
Regina Coons • Jeri Hallgren • Roxanne Toomey