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, in bread and wine.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME

The congregation invited to stand as they are able and face the baptismal font.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you

and your beloved children.

We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected.

We have rejected your word

when it made us confront ourselves.

We have failed to show hospitality

to those you called us to welcome.

Accept our repentance for the things we have done

and the things we have left undone.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us,

and reflect your love for all creation.

Amen.

Rejoice in this good news:

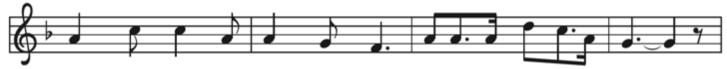
In + Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

Amen.

Please remain standing

GATHERING SONG Jesus, the Light of the World (ACS 914)



- 1 Hark! the her ald an gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 2 Joy ful, all you na tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 3 Christ, by high est heav'n a dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



"Glo - ry to the new-born king," join the tri-umph of the skies; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

Je-sus, the Light of the world.



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



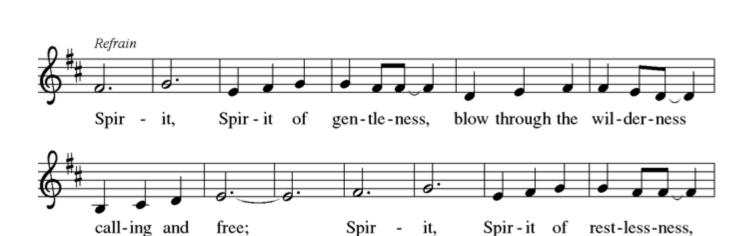
Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE Spirit of Gentleness ELW 396

Music & Lyrics on next page





it,

rest-less-ness,

Spir

stir me from plac-id-ness, wind, wind on the

call-ing and

free;



- 1 You moved on the wa ters, you called to the deep,
- You swept through the you stung with the sand, des ert,
- you cried from a You sang ble, hill, in sta
- You call from you break an-cient schemes. to - mor row,



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep; and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and land: then you whis-pered in si - lence when the whole world was still; From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



called to and o - ver the you each thing: ons and when they were blind with i - dols and edlies, and down in the called once gain, cit you a -У our wom - en see vi sions, our men clear their eyes.



"A wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings." then you spoke through your proph - ets o - pen their eyes. to when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind. new de - ci - sions your With . . . bold peo-ple

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

Please be seated

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7 (Kary Pfennig)

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.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹But 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. ²When 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. ³For 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. ⁴Because 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. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁵I 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— ₹everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29 (Kary Pfennig)

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;

the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴The 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.

⁹The 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!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17 (Kary Pfennig)

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.

A reading from Acts.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The 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). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

KIDS' MESSAGE

(Jeri Wartena)

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to welcome the Gospel

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

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.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John 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. ¹⁷His 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."

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

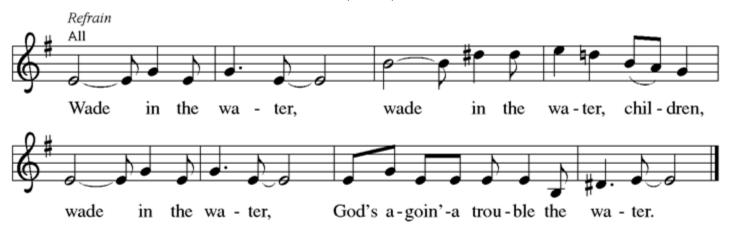
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

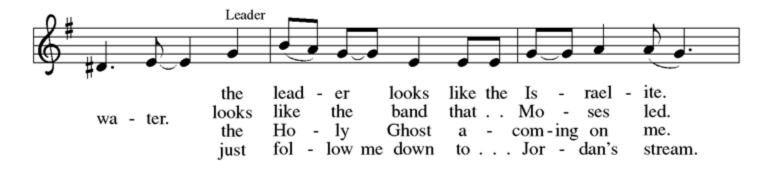
SERMON (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

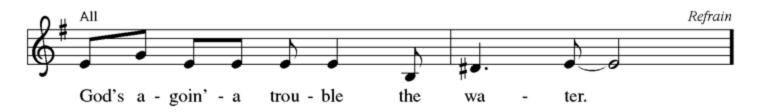
HYMN OF THE DAY Wade in the Water (ELW 459)





- 1 See that host all dressed in white,
- 2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a-goin'-a trou-ble the
- 3 Look o ver yon der, what do I see?
- 4 If you don't be-lieve I've been re deemed,





CREED

Let us join with Christians throughout the world and confess our shared faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven.

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Kary Pfennig)

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.

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.

Continued on next page

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. 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.

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

The congregation may offer additional prayer concerns either aloud or in the chat box

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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the words of the language of your heart.

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

Come to God's table.

There is a place for you and enough for all.

All are welcome to join in our communion celebration. Please follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the ushers.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.

BLESSING

God.

who leads you in pathways of righteousness,

who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name,

+ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

Amen.



Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After brief announcements related to the ministry of Bethel, the congregation is invited to stand.

DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God and we will.

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