

Baptism of Our Lord / First Sunday after Epiphany

January 11, 2026



PRELUDE

We arrive from many places as music gathers us into one shared moment in the Spirit.

WELCOME STATEMENT

Everyone is invited into God's story and the life of this community.

EPIPHANY ACCLAMATION

The light of Christ shines; we rejoice and prepare to follow wherever it leads.

The light has come into the world!
And the darkness has not overcome it.

Let us pray...

Almighty God, you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Come, let us follow the light of Christ!

Amen! We will follow where it leads.

PROCESSIONAL

"Shall We Gather at the River"

ELW 423

We journey together as a people called into God's story, walking in the way of Jesus.

GREETING

God names us as beloved and draws us into community.

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. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We tell the truth about our lives and hear again that grace comes first.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God , lover of justice, 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.

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.

Amen.

(Assembly is seated.)

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Gloria Deo”

Victor Johnson

Our voices and hearts respond to God's grace, joining creation in song and praise.

© 2002 John Leavitt, One License# 98-3690

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We ask the Spirit to prepare our hearts for hearing God's word.

Let us pray.

O God our Father, 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. Amen.

WORD

God speaks across time and tradition: in promise, struggle, praise, and the life of Jesus.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

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.

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 29

We give voice to God's faithfulness, participating in the living story of God's mercy and love by echoing the ancient prayers of God's people.

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 God of glory 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family became the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

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."

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

(The Assembly stands for the gospel.)

GOSPEL READING*Matthew 3:13-17*

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

The gospel according to Matthew.

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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON*Rev. Phillip Potaczek*

We hear God's promise proclaimed to us, and the Spirit works in our hearts to make it real.

HYMN OF THE DAY*"Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized"**ELW 304*

We respond to the promises of God in song.

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM:
PRESENTATION**

God calls and claims individuals for a life of love, welcoming them into the story of grace. The candidate for baptism gathers at the font with the minister, parents, and sponsors.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

We join the wider church in naming the story that holds us. The assembly stands. The minister addresses the candidate, parents, sponsors and the assembly.

I ask you all to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? If so, please say 'I renounce them'.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

We give thanks to God for claiming us, and we celebrate the promises of grace and the Spirit's presence as we bless the waters of baptism.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, holy God.....through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

(The Assembly is seated.)

BAPTISM

God claims us as children of the same household, called to love, serve, and live in community.

Ivory Emerald RaeLynne, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy. You belong to Christ forever, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia!

Let us pray... We give you thanks, O God,.....both now and forever.

Amen.

Ivory Emerald RaeLynne, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

As the gathered church, we welcome the newly baptized into the Body of Christ. A lighted candle is given to the sponsors by the minister or a representative of the congregation.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share; join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

(Applause. The baptized, sponsors, and parents are seated.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We entrust all into God's care.

After each prayer petition, please respond: **Merciful God. Receive our prayer.**

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 Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We offer signs of Christ's peace, joining God's work of reconciliation.

May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

We have seen the light of Christ!

Thanks be to God! We offer what we have and who we are, that God's light may be shared with the world.

OFFERING

“Wade in the Water”

ELW 459

We return our gifts to God, offering ourselves for the life of the world.

OFFERING PRAYER

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. Amen.



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

We lift our hearts and give thanks for God's life-giving work.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

We remember God's faithfulness and join heaven and earth in praise.

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 in their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Setting 1, page 108

We join the song of heaven and earth, proclaiming God's glory and holiness as we prepare to receive Christ's presence at the table

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We recall the story of Jesus and ask the Spirit to make us one.

Holy God, You revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star.....Celebrating the light of Christ revealed to the nations, we proclaim with all creation the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Modern Version

We pray as Jesus taught, trusting God for what we need.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as our Savior taught us:
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to God's table of grace, receiving Christ's presence as nourishment for the journey.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to know the love of God in Jesus Christ are invited to Holy Communion. Inform a communion assistant if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is located in the center ring of the tray. If you are not receiving the sacrament today, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Bind Us Together"

Bob Gillman

Singing in response to God's gift, we enter more deeply into the presence of Christ.

Chorus

Bind us together Lord
Bind us together with cords
That cannot be broken
Bind us together Lord
Bind us together Lord
Bind us together with love

There is only one God
There is only one King
There is only one body
That is why we can sing
(Chorus)

Made for the glory of God
Purchased by His precious Son
Born with the right to be clean
For Jesus the vict'ry has won
(Chorus)

You are the fam'ly of God
You are the promise divine
You are god's chosen desire
You are the glorious new wine
(Chorus)

©1977 Thankyou Music LTD, CCLI# 1228

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We ask for strength to live what we have received.

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. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We share news and opportunities to live God's love together as a community.

BLESSING

God's promise goes with us into whatever comes next.

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL

“Made for Love”

Peterson, Olson, Olson

With hearts lifted, we turn toward the world as Christ's people.

Chorus

We've been molded by the Creator's hand
Here in Jesus we have grace to stand
Moving by the Spirit
We are made for love

In the water's holy blessing
Spirit coming like a dove
We're a witness to the wonder
We are loved and so we love
(Chorus)

Sun and starlight, sparkling waters
morning birds that serenade
In the image of the maker
we are wonderfully made
(Chorus)

Live out justice, treasure kindness
journey humbly everyday
We are called here into service
a forgiving, loving way
(Chorus)

©2002 Dakota Road Music, One License# 62594

SENDING

We are sent to love, serve, and live the story we have shared.

Our Eucharist has ended. **Now it must be lived.**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Travelers on the Journey”

Olson, Peterson

As worship concludes, music strengthens and inspires us for the journey ahead.

©1999 Dakota Road Music, CCLI# 3163692

*****Trinity at a Glance*****

- Today, **Sunday January 11th immediately after Service**, we will hold the **Property Committee** Informational meeting.
- Today, **January 11, 2026**, after the Property Committee Informational meeting, **Trinity will be taking down the decorations and trees** in the Sanctuary. Please come and join us! Help is always appreciated!
- **Sunday January 18th immediately after Service** we will hold the **Finance Committee** Informational meeting.
- This year's **Annual Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for after Holy Communion at **11 am on Sunday, February 1st, 2026**. A quorum of 50 congregation members is needed. Please plan to attend. Thank you!
- **The next Blood Drive will be on Wednesday, February 11, 2026**. Contact Carol Wahlstrom if interested in helping or donating.
- **First Communion classes** are scheduled for **9am-9:50am on Sunday, March 15th & March 29th, 2026**. We meet in Fellowship Hall, beneath the Sanctuary. **First Communion Sunday is Sunday, April 12th, 2026**. Individuals who have not yet received the Sacrament of Holy Communion who are aged 7 or older are invited! Please register by emailing Pastor Phil (pastorphil@trinitylutheranottawa.com). Thank you!
- **We have a couple of 2026 calendars left (\$20). Profits go to the Growing Project**. Please contact the office during regular business hours if you would like one. Marj Nelson 815-973-1286 and Kate Reed 815-830-2061 also have copies available.
- Many people in Jamaica and Haiti have been severely impacted by Hurricane Helene. You can give help by giving to Lutheran Disaster Response. At give.ELCA.org/hurricanes, just type in "Lutheran Disaster Response," select Hurricane Helene, make a contribution. Or send a check to: Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield VA 22116-8009.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

Please sign up using the binder at the back of the aisle.

<p><u>Sunday, January 11, 2026</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: <i>Pearl</i> Ushers: Lector: <i>Shannon Matteson</i> Communion Assistants: <i>Shannon Matteson, Mike Matteson, Ann Enke</i> Altar Guild: <i>Jan Beckman, Becky Glaser</i> Video Tech: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers:</p>	<p><u>Sunday, January 18, 2026</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: <i>Pearl</i> Ushers: Lector: <i>Beth Schuett</i> Communion Assistants: <i>Beth Schuett</i> Altar Guild: <i>Debbie Guenther, Ann Enke</i> Video Tech: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers:</p>

● **CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- Dec Income = \$19,284.48 (Income YTD = \$234,353.29)
- Dec Expense = \$18,099.46 (Expense YTD = \$240,134.30)
- Income Less Expense = -\$1,185.02 (Income Less Expense YTD = -\$5,781.01)
- Loan Payment = \$2,943.30
- Principal Payment = \$1,000.00
- Left On Loan = \$406.68

● **THIS WEEK @ TRINITY:**

- **Monday (1/12):** 10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
10a Staff Meeting (Office)
- **Tuesday (1/13):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
7p Finance Committee (Board Room)
- **Wednesday (1/14)** 1p Bible Study (TBD)
6:30p Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- **Thursday (1/15):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
7p Church Council (Board Room)
- **Friday (1/16):** 7a Sunrise Rotary (Fellowship Hall)
- **Saturday (1/17):** *National Tulip Day!* 
- **Sunday (1/18)** 9a Sunday Session
9a Affirmation Class
10a Holy Communion & Baptism
11a Finance Committee Informational Meeting (Java Junction)