

LUTHERAN CHAPEL



THE *Baptism* OF OUR *Lord*

GENESIS 3:1-7, 14-24 and MATTHEW 3:13-17

"Baptism of our Lord 2026"

**ANTE COMMUNION
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD - AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM
JANUARY 11, 2026**

**lutheranchapelchurch.org
(704) 864-6491**

**LUTHERAN CHAPEL
SERVICE OF ANTE COMMUNION**

***BOLD** indicates congregational responses - * Indicates that all who are able should stand to honor God.*

GATHER

PRELUDE

"Melody"

Brahms

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Matthew 28:19b

C: Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

1 John 1:8-9

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us recite the gift of the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment and use these teachings to examine our lives.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20:1-17

- 1. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of slavery; you shall have no other gods.**
- 2. You shall not make wrongful use of the Name of the LORD your God.**
- 3. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.**
- 4. Honor your father and mother.**
- 5. You shall not murder.**
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.**
- 7. You shall not steal.**
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or (husband).**

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Mark 12:28-31

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

P: Let us kneel or sit for a time of silent confession and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

***THE APOSTOLIC GREETING**

2 Corinthians 13:13

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.

***THE KYRIE**

Mark 10:47, ELW pg. 147

AM: Kyrie eleison

C: Lord, have mercy.

AM: Christe eleison

C: Christ, have mercy.

AM: Kyrie eleison

C: Lord, have mercy.

***GLORY TO GOD**

Luke 2:14, John 1:29, ELW pg. 148

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you,
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;**

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

(In Unison)

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

**C: 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

MESSAGE FOR ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All who want to come forward for the Message are welcome to do so.

STORY OF SALVATION LESSON

GENESIS 3:1-7, 14-24

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals

and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

**15 I will put enmity between you and the woman
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.”**

16 To the woman he said,
“I will make your pangs in childbirth exceedingly great;
in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”

17 And to the man he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

L: The Word of the Lord.

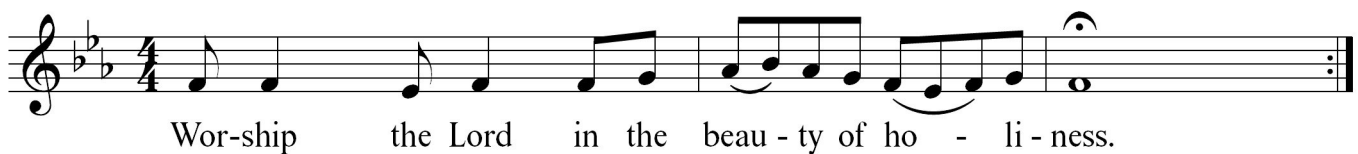
C: Thanks be to God.

STORY OF SALVATION TIMELINE

*The timeline below offers an overview of the Story of Salvation lesson from Genesis to Revelation.
The + marks where we are now. Memory verse is in bold.*

+**Creation** : Fall : Promise : Exodus : Conquest : Judges: Kings and Prophets : Exile :
Restoration : 2nd Temple : JESUS : Apostles : Last Day : New Creation

PSALM 29



Music: Mark Mummert
Psalm Settings for the Church Year
© 2008 Augsburg Fortress

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.

Refrain

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!”

Refrain

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.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

ACTS 10:34-43

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ 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. ³⁹ 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, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ 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. ⁴² 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. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

John 6:68

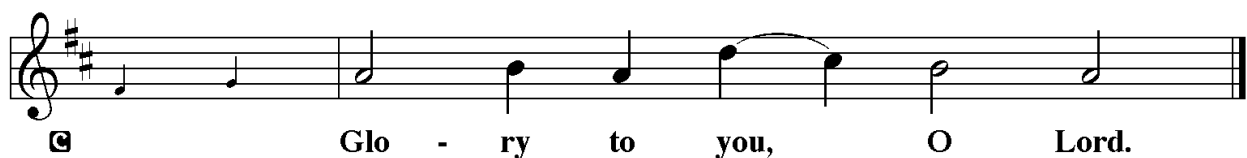
Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

***GOSPEL**

MATTHEW 3:13-17

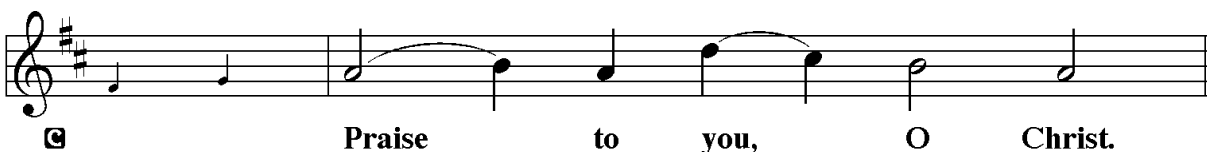
Those who are able may stand to honor Christ during the reading of the Gospel.

Response after the announcement:



¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



MESSAGE

“Baptism of our Lord 2026”

What is Sin?

The Gift of Baptism in the Name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit

The Law is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus’ saving power: I am not a sinner. I can fix it myself. Then all of a sudden, can I really fix me?

The Gospel is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus’ ultimate saving power: Our Lord Jesus Christ receives baptism from John the Baptist as an example in righteousness for us. The risen Jesus gives us baptism and calls us to the godly way.

So What? When you wash your face, remember your baptism (Luther). Begin and end each day in the Name given you. Invite all to receive baptism (yet remember there is only ONE baptism – Ephesians 4:5) – for each human being to trust in Jesus is THE mission here.

*HYMN OF THE DAY

“Shall We Gather at the River”

ELW #423

*THE APOSTLES’ CREED

All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and

sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM - FOR THE ASSEMBLY

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

To live among God's faithful people,

To hear the work of God and share in the Lord's supper,

To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

To serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen

***THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Philippians 4:7

P: The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Malachi 3:10, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

MUSICAL OFFERING

Offered by Sam Malitz

"Blessed Assurance"

Phoebe Palmer

***OFFERTORY**

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Psalms 51:10-1

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(In Unison)

C: Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with Your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

1 Timothy 2:1-4

AM: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, and the congregation may respond **Hear our prayers.**

Prayers are commended in Jesus' Name.

AM: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Matthew 6:9-13

AM: 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

***BENEDICTION**

***RECESSIONAL HYMN** *"Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"*

ELW #304

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"A Song for Celebration"

Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

† † † † † † † †

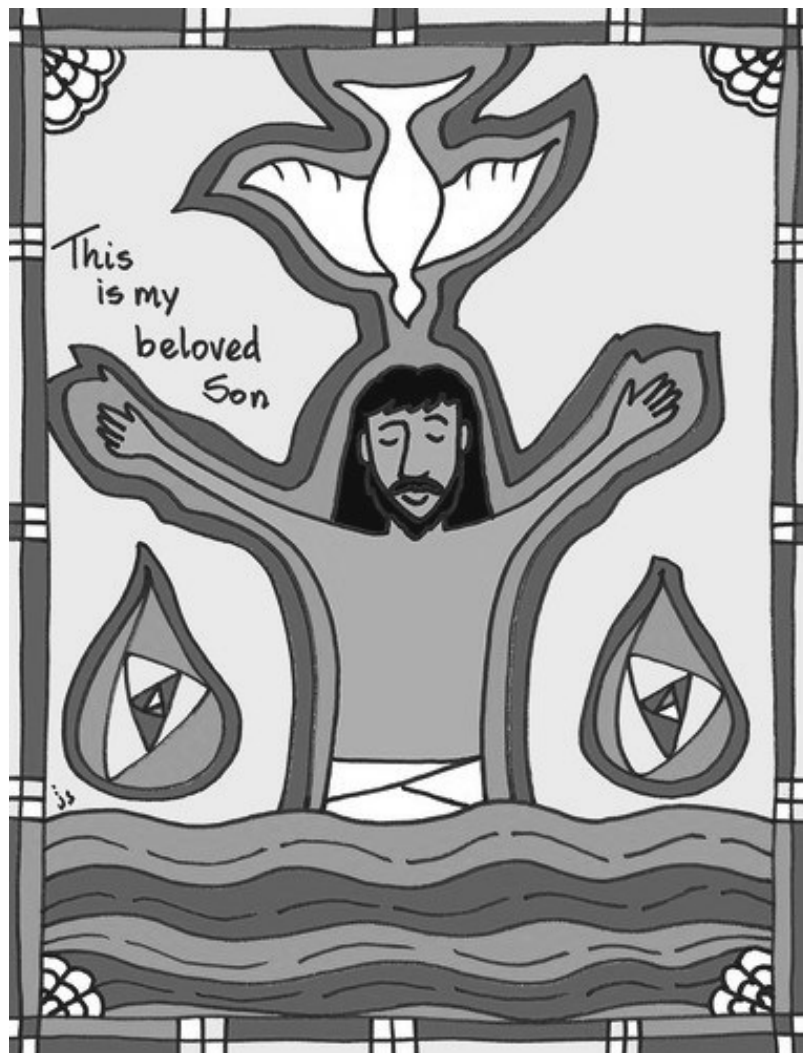
In Honor &
MEMORY 

OUR ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Pam and Norman Overcash.

Serving the **CHURCH**



Ministers.....	People of Lutheran Chapel
Pastor	Michael Comer
Administrative Assistant.....	Susan Hibschi
Director of Music Ministries.....	Kathie Riebe
Choir Accompanist.....	Anna Gilreath
Assistant Minister.....	Chris Lowe
Acolyte.....	Elena Hoffman
Lector.....	Kelly Andrews
Crucifer.....	Bram Comer
Head Ushers.....	Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman
First Aid/AED/CPR.....	Steve Clark
Council Members of the Month.....	Jenny Williamson & Drew Carpenter



Upcoming EVENTS



GENERAL INFORMATION: If your family is in need of a **nursery** attendant during the 10:00 service, please let our ushers know and they will contact one of our attendants. **Restrooms** are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary. Additional restrooms are located in the Educational Building and *do not require the use of stairs*. If needed, please see an usher for assistance in locating them.

TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS ONLINE: This QR code goes straight to the “Easy Tithe” page on the website that accepts tithes and offerings electronically.



OWLS: We hope you’ll join us for our OWL-standing time of fellowship on **Thursday, January 15th** at 11:00 am at Bright Star, 205 Madora St., Mt Holly.



CLOTHING CLOSET: The next clothing closet giveaway will be held on **Saturday, January 24th** from 9 am-12 pm.

THE CHOSEN: Join us for the Evening Suffrages on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm, followed by an episode of the Chosen with a discussion and snacks to follow in the Memorial Chapel.

2026 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR: If you’d like to sign up for a Sunday in 2026, please contact Susan Lewis at 704-914-8451 or email sudalewi@gmail.com. We still need flowers for April 19, July 5, October 4, October 25, Nov 8, and Nov 22.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES: **Last chance** to pick up offering envelopes in the Narthex. After Sunday, please pick up in the church office. To avoid entry errors, please **do not** use old envelopes from prior years since some envelope numbers have changed or if you do, make sure your name is on the envelope. If you would like an envelope assigned to you please contact the church office. Also note that Benevolences has now been renamed NC Synod under the offering flap.



LOVE OFFERING FOR JANUARY: The love offering for January will be given to the Cancer Services of Gaston County. Cancer Services provides education about cancer prevention and detection, assists cancer patients, and funds cancer research. The mission of Cancer Services is to serve the community by actively promoting healthy lifestyles and providing support and services needed by people living with cancer. Everyone is personally affected by cancer at some time in their life. By supporting agencies such as Cancer Services, you are helping people who are suffering from this disease.

Weekly CALENDAR



Sunday, January 11

8:30 am Fellowship with coffee
 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Study
 10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)
11:00 am Choir Lunch
11:00 am Confirmation
 8:00 pm Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, January 12

8:30 am Preschool
6:00 pm Rebecca's Circle

Tuesday, January 13

8:30 am Preschool
 10:00 am Clothing Closet Workday
 6:00 pm Pickup basketball

Wednesday, January 14

8:30 am Preschool
 7:00 pm Evening Suffrages and Episode of the Chosen

Thursday, January 15

8:30 am Preschool
 11:00 am Bible Study (Library)

Friday, January 16

Office Closed
 9:00 am Men's Community Bible Study (Library)

Saturday, January 17

9:30 am Hungry Peeps in (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, January 18

8:30 am Fellowship with coffee
 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Study
 10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)
11:00 am Council Meeting
 8:00 pm Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)



DAILY PRAYER - A HOME ALTAR ALTERS THE HOME!: Sunrise, noon, sunset and at meals are times for daily prayer (*Psalm 1, 55:17*). May God bless you as you turn to Him day by day.

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - Week 3—January 11 to January 18, 2026

01/11 Morning Reading: Matthew 8:18-34—Evening Reading: Genesis 27, 28
01/12 Morning Reading: Matthew 9:1-17—Evening Reading: Genesis 29, 30
01/13 Morning Reading: Matthew 9:18-38—Evening Reading: Genesis 31, 32
01/14 Morning Reading: Matthew 10:1-20—Evening Reading: Genesis 33, 34, 35
01/15 Morning Reading: Matthew 10:21-42—Evening Reading: Genesis 36, 37, 38
01/16 Morning Reading: Matthew 11—Evening Reading: Genesis 39, 40
01/17 Morning Reading: Matthew 12:1-23—Evening Reading: Genesis 41, 42
01/18 Morning Reading: Matthew 12:24-50—Evening Reading: Genesis 43, 44, 45

This QR code goes straight to the Daily prayers page on the website that lists the commemorations and Psalms appointments for the week.



PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP: Margaret Berghello, Shirley Bradley, Gail Brown, Miles Carpenter, Shirley Carpenter, George Cashion, Delana Clark, Ruby Cook, Baker Hampton, Henry Hoffman, Jason Lineberger, Ann Lowe, **family of Helen McCarter**, and Janie Peak.

FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP: Kyle Banes, Rick Belton, Kathy Bradley, Gage Brown, Deborah Carpenter, Mark Carswell, Zandra Chavis, Jeff Cobb, Doris Coggins, Genniser Devega, Tucker Doyne, Aishia Duncan, Kenny Falls, Jameson Franklin, Abi Gordon, Jan Green, Jerry Green, John, Kathy Jenkins, Kirk Jordan, Debbie Kerspise, Don Kincaid, Sherry McCart, Betty Parlier, **Steve Parker**, Rita Pasour, Jeff Smith, Christy Carpenter Smith, Charlene Sorenson, Judy Turner and Kennedy Williams.

To share concerns and updates for the prayer list you can contact the church office (704-864-6491) or call/text Pastor Comer (704-787-6439)

NEXT WEEK'S LESSONS

Wednesday, January 14 ~ Evening Suffrages and The Chosen

Psalm 97 "*Rejoice in the Lord*" - Chosen "*Dedication*"

Thursday, January 15 ~ Story of Salvation Bible Study

Genesis 3:1-7, 14-24 "*Sin*"

Sunday, January 18 ~ Holy Communion

John 1:29-42 and Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 - "*Drowning*"

When Jesus Came to Jordan



1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John,
2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;



he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond-age break.



He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,
So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:



to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune

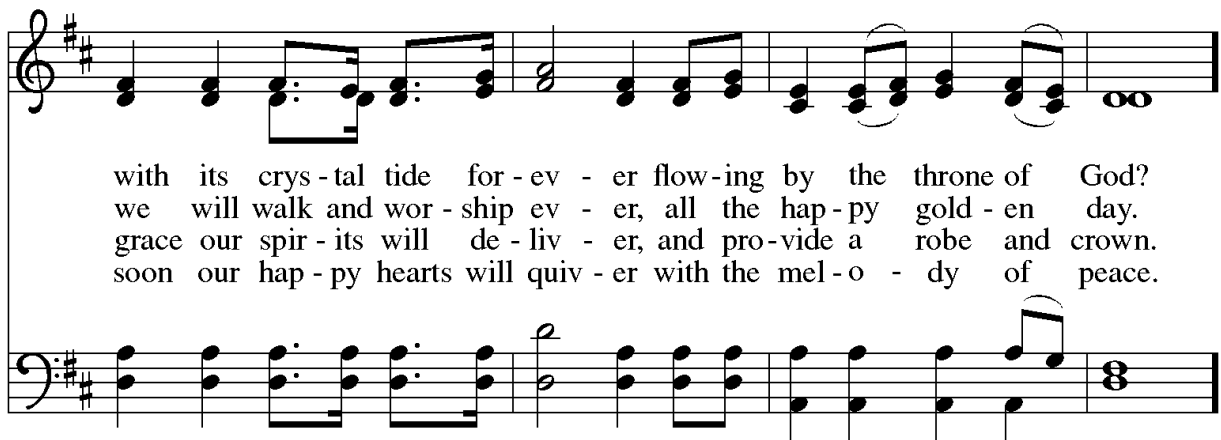
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Shall We Gather at the River

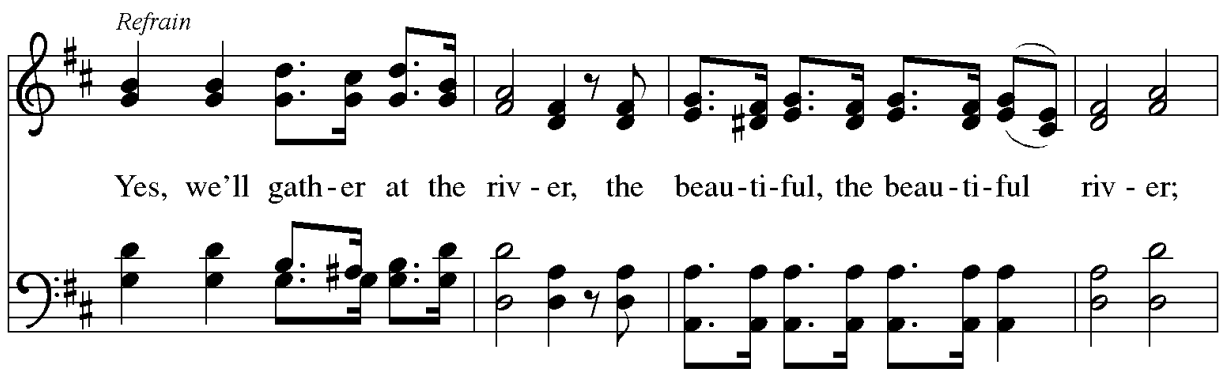


1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
give your life for all, to give your life for all.
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

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