****

**Baptism**

**of our Lord**

“And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’” *Matthew 3:16-17*

**AS WE GATHER**

The Baptism John proclaimed was for repentance, that people might be ready to receive the Messiah. When our Lord asked to be baptized, though, He had nothing of which to repent. In gracious obedience, He was baptized to begin this wonderful exchange with sinners, fulfilling the Law in our place and taking upon Himself God’s judgment against sin. His ministry would fulfill the words Isaiah penned centuries earlier. Indeed, the Father was pleased with His servant Son that day but forsook Him on the cross as He took our sins with Him. As Paul writes in the Epistle, that great sacrifice ensures that we are able, now and forever, to be “alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Romans 6:11).

**PSALM** 29

**+ Preparation +**

**INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES** *Romans 6:4; Matthew 3:17*

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: We were buried therefore with [Christ] by baptism into death,

**People: in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.**

Pastor: This is My beloved Son,

**People: with whom I am well pleased.**

**CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION** *Romans 6:3, 10*

Pastor: Isaiah wrote about God’s gracious Servant. It was a prophecy about Jesus, who, although He was righteous, exchanged places with us in Baptism and on to death. Let us confess our failures to reflect His obedient servanthood in our daily living.

*Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.*

 The Father put His Spirit upon His Servant.

**People: We confess, good Lord, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We have sought to live by our own strength and will. In our sinful condition, we cannot help ourselves. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus, our Brother.**

Pastor: Paul wrote, “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? . . . For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. Thanks be to God for our Baptism into Christ!**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Father Welcomes”* (*LSB* 605)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 42:1-9 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below Collect of the Day)*

**EPISTLE** Romans 6:1-11 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 3:13-17 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**NICENE CREED** (*back, inside cover*)

**HYMN** *“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”* (*LSB* 739)

**SERMON *“The Great Exchange”***

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**LORD’S PRAYER, SUNG** (*LSB*,front inside cover)

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION**

 *“Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered”* (*LSB* 404)

 *“O Blessed Spring”* (*LSB* 595)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks, heavenly Father, that we have again been assured that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Strengthen us now as we seek to serve You and love the people around us as Your sons and daughters, who have been given Christ’s own righteousness in this great exchange of faith and love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“Beautiful Savior”* (*LSB* 537)

**CATECHISM** *Baptism, First and Fourth*

Question: What is Baptism?

**Answer: Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.**

Question: Which is that word of God?

**Answer: Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”**

Question: What does such baptizing with water indicate?

**Answer: It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

Question: Where is this written?

**Answer: St. Paul writes in Romans, chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”**

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**