

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

January 12, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Baptism of Our Lord

The feast of Epiphany season with a celebration the person of Jesus Christ. guided the magi to Jesus, who we are: children of washed in the waters of



concludes the Christmas of God's glory revealed in Like the light of the star that the light of Christ reveals God who are claimed and baptism.

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE **Songs of Thankfulness and Praise** **arr. M. Hayes**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, O Living One, for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly. Oceans and aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you.

All life is sustained by you, our Source.

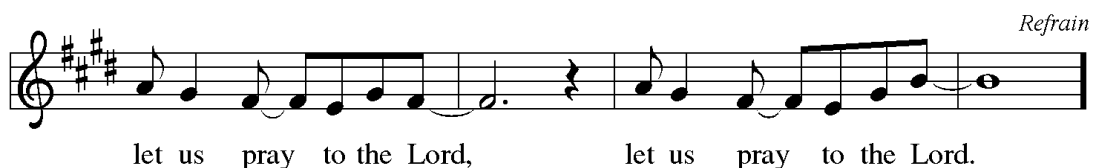
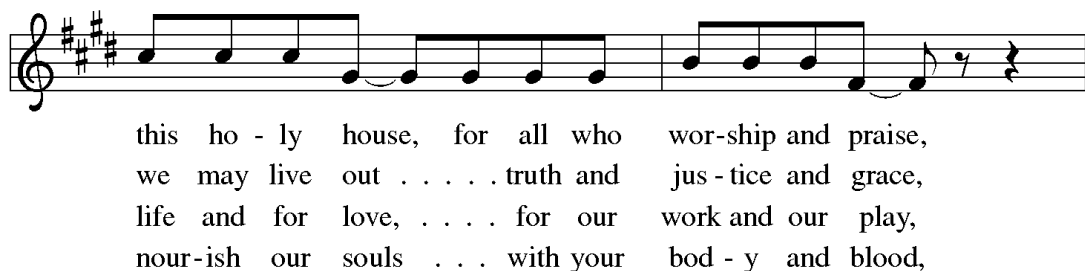
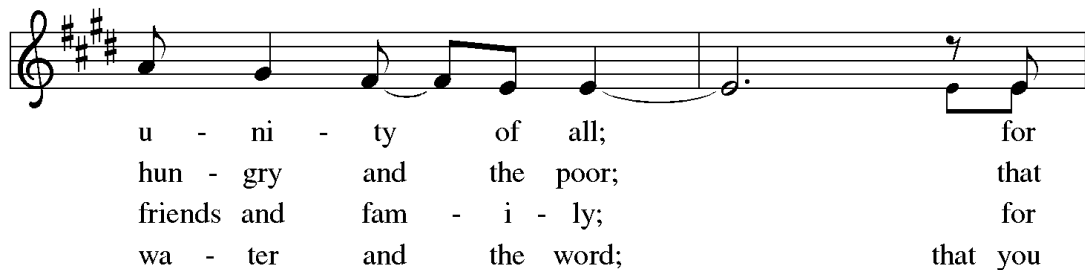
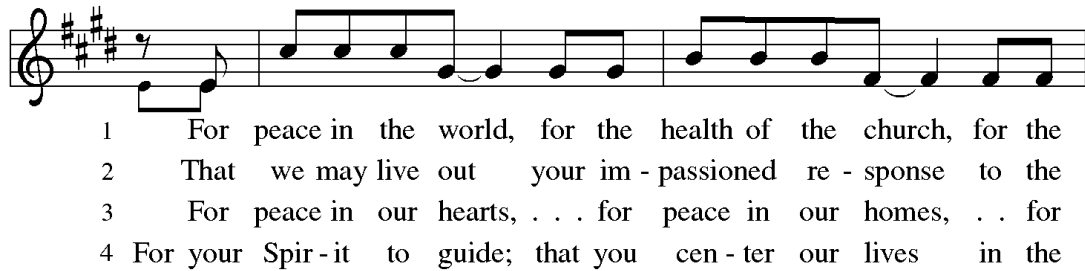
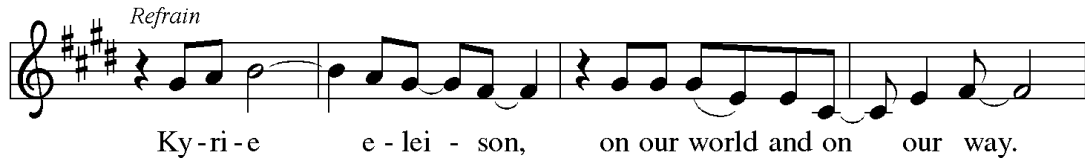
We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life. Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God. Here, death is washed away forever. Here, we are grafted into the tree of life, with leaves for the healing of the world. Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly, into this community, and throughout all creation. Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions. Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN This is the Spirit's Entry Now ELW 448

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.**

KYRIE (vs. 1,4) All sing refrain; choir sings verses



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

+WORD+

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

First Reading:

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, chapter 43.

¹ But 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. ² When 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.

³ For 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. ⁴ Because 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.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶ I 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— ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." *Isaiah 43:1-7*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29:

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glo-ry and strength.

² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beau-ty of holiness.**

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

⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a pow-erful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the ce-dars of Lebanon;

⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷ The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilder-ness of Kadesh.**

⁹ 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!"

¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned a- bove the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king for- evermore.**

¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the bless-ings of peace.

Second Reading:

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, chapter 8.

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

Acts 8:14-17

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(all sing)*



Alleluia. A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, [†] the Beloved,* with whom I [†] am well pleased.” *Alleluia.* (Matt. 3:17)

Gospel:

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, chapter 3. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

PASTOR BILL WHITE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Down Galilee's Slow Roadway

ACS 916

L: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

ELW 752



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Bless the work of all who engage in dialogue with people of other traditions and faiths. Bridge our differences with a shared mission of revealing your boundless love to the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Restore the glory of creation. Send rain to water-parched lands. Revive ecosystems and habitats threatened by a changing climate, and protect the peoples and creatures who live in them. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Frustrate the plans of tyrants and oppressors. Encourage the work of community organizers and activists who speak out against injustice and who reveal your righteousness to those who govern. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Liberate this congregation from a yearning for the past while it is called to your future. Fuel in us a passion for discovery. Give us the boldness to dream and to imagine our ministries in new and different ways. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our healer, we continue to pray for those on our prayer list. In addition we lift up to your care these loved ones and concerns that we name aloud or in our hearts before you now...*(time is allowed for additions)*.

We give thanks for your holy ones who now rest in your radiant glory. Make us, with them, sharers in the boundless riches of Christ, our hope and promise. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

CHOIR ANTHEM

When You Pass Through the Waters

Text of Isaiah 43:1-3, Music by P. Weber

Fear not, fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
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.

For I am the Lord your God, I am the Lord your God, the Holy One, your Savior.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Come, Let Us Eat (vs. 1)

ELW 491



- 1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
- 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
- 3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
- 4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
 come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
 in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
 rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
 In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,



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L: OFFERING PRAYER*Let us pray.*

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God...
now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed
 be thy name; thy king - dom come; thy will be
 done on earth as it is in heav - en.
 Give us this day our dai - ly bread; and for -
 give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give those..
 who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to temp -
 ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil..
 For the king - dom, the pow'r, and the
 glo - ry are yours, for - ev - er and ev - er..
 A - - - - - men. A - - - - - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

*At Faith **all** are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread (or gluten-free wafers upon request) and wine (or white grape juice). Empty glasses can be placed*

in baskets provided as you return by the side aisles to your seat for silent meditation. If you need communion brought to you, please notify the usher.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

L: POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW 671

(if you are giving a reminder, come to the lectern during the last verse)

REMINDERS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, January 12, 2025

Presiding Minister: Pastor Bill White

Minister of Music: Deacon Gwynne Hopko

Assisting Minister: Bob Herold

Lector: Rich Miskell

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Denise Martin, Alan Rindfleisch, Donald Zurell

Altar Guild: Denise Martin

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, January 12, 2025 Baptism of Our Lord

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

10:30 a.m. Game Day

Monday, January 13, 2025

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

1:00 p.m. RIC Meeting (in house)

Thursday, January 16, 2025

6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (YOUTH Room)

Sunday, January 19, 2025

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

10:30 a.m. Council Meeting

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: churchoffice@FaithBristolCT.org

Presiding Pastor Chris Dion, phone: 860.989.3507

Deacon Gwynne Hopko, Minister of Music