

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

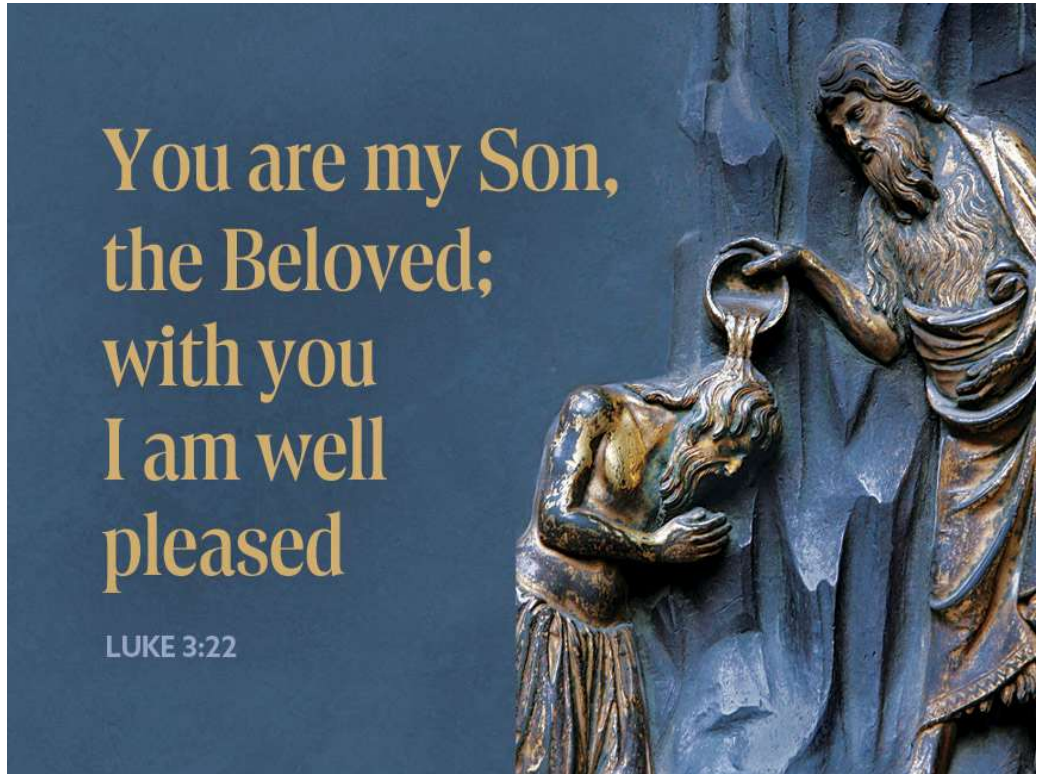
810 FAIRFAX STREET
STEPHENS CITY, VA

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9:30AM

OFFICE@TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG
JANUARY 12, 2025 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

You are my Son,
the Beloved;
with you
I am well
pleased

LUKE 3:22



Metal relief of the baptism of Jesus, Baptistry of San Giovanni in Florence, Italy by Godong. Copyright © 2024 Robert Harding Photo Library/Alamy Stock Photo. Used by permission.

PRELUDE *Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling* G. Winston Casslet (1906-1990)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

ELW 310



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint - ing soul;
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



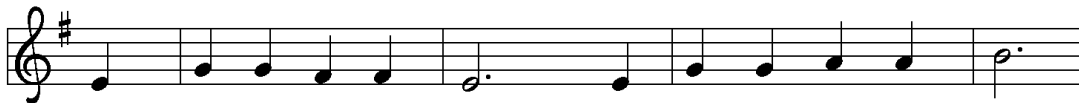
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702

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



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav' n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

Roger Wickboldt

A reading from Isaiah.

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.

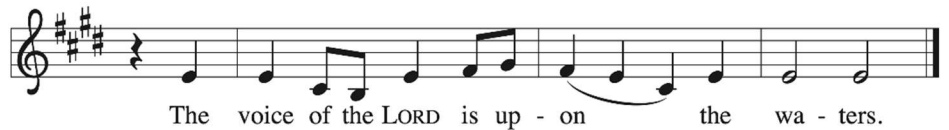
⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
 I will bring your offspring from the east,
 and from the west I will gather you;

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."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 29



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

² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory ¹ due God's name;
 worship the LORD in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness.**

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of ¹ glory thunders;
 the LORD is upon the ¹ mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a pow- ¹ erful voice;
 the voice of the LORD is a ¹ voice of splendor. R**

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the ¹ cedar trees;
 the LORD breaks the ce- ¹ dars of Lebanon;

⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip ¹ like a calf,
 and Mount Hermon like a ¹ young wild ox.**

⁷ The voice ¹ of the LORD
 bursts forth in ¹ lightning flashes.

⁸ **The voice of the LORD ¹ shakes the wilderness;
 the LORD shakes the wilder- ¹ ness of Kadesh. R**

⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the ¹ forests bare.
 And in the temple of the LORD all are ¹ crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned a- ¹ bove the flood;
 the LORD sits enthroned as king for- ¹ evermore.**

¹¹ O LORD, give strength ¹ to your people;
 give them, O LORD, the bless- ¹ ings of peace. **R**

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

A reading from Acts.

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The holy gospel according to Luke.

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."

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

SERMON

Mrs. Norma Frederickson



- 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.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
 Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

CREED

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

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.

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. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery especially Barb, Shirley, Louise, Stephen, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Bill, Michael, Pat, the Lam-Vandenberg family and others we name now (*worshippers may add names silently or aloud*). Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Other prayers may be offered now.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

PEACE

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



OFFERING

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth setting by Mark Sedio

Offering is an act of worship that shows our gratitude to God for all that we are and have in our lives. The offering today will provide support for the ministries of Trinity both locally and in the world around us. You may provide your offering in person, scan the QR code adjacent or send it by mail. We thank you for sharing not only your monetary gifts but also your gifts of time and talent to further our mission to share Jesus' love in worship, fellowship, hospitality, and community, doing God's work with our hands.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 884

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW 543



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Conclusion

Francois Fétis (1784-1871)

TRENDING @ TRINITY

Warm thanks to Norma Frederickson for being our worship leader and preacher this morning. It is good to have her back amongst us. Norma is a commissioned VA Synod lay preacher. She also creates stoles and paraments for faith communities. She lives just down the road in Berryville. Norma created several of Trinity's altar paraments.

Tuesday, January 14 Sewing for the Savior will meet in room 204 at 9:30AM. Anyone interested in hand sewing lap quilts and good conversation is welcome. If the Frederick County Schools are on a two-hour delay or closed due to the weather, the group will not meet.

Also on Tuesday, the 14th, the Lutheran Church Women will meet. They gather in room 205 at 11:30AM. If Fred. Co. schools are closed they will not meet; if the schools are on a 2 hr delay the meeting will go ahead as planned.

The 2025 Chancel flower calendar is on the bulletin board in the Narthex for those who wish to reserve one or more Sundays on which they will provide the flowers.

Food pantry donation request for January: soup. The black bin for donations is in the Narthex. Please remember to check expiration dates to be certain they are at least a year away, also no personal hygiene or other products unless specifically asked for; no opened products of any kind (this includes unopened items that are in an opened multipack).

Dear friends and partners in ministry at Trinity,

The past five years as pastor of this congregation and working with its committed leadership have been very special to me. I have said often that I wish that my call to serve Trinity had come 5 years before it did. Trinity is the most loving, welcoming, and servant-hearted congregation that I've experienced in my life in the church. Thank you for your continued passion for supporting Trinity's ministries and ensuring that this small but mighty congregation provides worship, spiritual growth, and outreach in the Stephens City area as it has for so many years.

My prayers will be with you as you move forward in the pastoral call process. I pray that you will remain strong in hope and mission-centered for the future. My hope is that this process will go smoothly, and you will call a pastor who is a perfect fit for Trinity as you look ahead.

This congregation will always hold a special place in my heart, and after the appropriate time, I hope that I will be able to return for a visit. Although I will no longer be your pastor, I will always be a friend who loves you and wants only the best for the future of Trinity's ministry in Christ's name.

Continue to be faithful to your mission of: "Sharing the love of Jesus in worship, fellowship, hospitality and community doing God's work with our hands."

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor JMe Lowden

This week: Greeters: Marianne Watson, Deb Wickboldt, Reader: Roger Wickboldt

Next week: Greeter: Marianne Watson; Reader: Marcie Stern; Comm. Asst.: Barry Hockenberry

New for 2025: Zoom to Worship, 9:30AM Meeting ID: 893 4718 0792 Passcode: 173681

Dial 1-301-715-8592 US

Facebook Live: you must have internet, but you do not need to have a Facebook account

<https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephenscityva/live/>