

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 11, 2026
Baptism of Our Lord

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

Welcome & Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

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.

***Hymn**

Baptized and Set Free

ELW 453

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.

***Kyrie**

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***Glory to God**

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***Prayer of the Day**

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.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

¹ 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.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ 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:

⁶ 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,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: 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: 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: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

***Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)**

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***Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

¹³ 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 our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Scott Otto

***Hymn**

Shall We Gather at the River

ELW 423

*** Prayers of Intercession**

Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

***Peace** (*Feel free to share a handshake or hug*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Offering: *Please consider giving an offering for the mission and ministry of St. Olaf. We can continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with your support and generosity. God bless you. Also, please pass the attendance sheets down your row and fill out your info.*

***Offering prayer**

God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love 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.

***Lord's Prayer**

***Blessing**

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.

***Hymn**

Baptized in Water

ELW 456

***Dismissal**

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

Assisting in Worship

Presider: Pastor Jim McColley

Organist: Jason Swedlund

Reader: Viv Nore

Ushers: Mitch Craigmile, Doug Seltz

Tech: Mark Oester