

The Celebration of the Baptism of our Lord

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

*1 Baptized into your name most holy,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,
Among your saints, your chosen host,
Buried with Christ and dead to sin.
Your Spirit now shall live within.* (CW #294:1)

M: I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

C: **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.** (John 3:5,6)

M: Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us. (Psalm 51:5)

C: **But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** (1 Corinthians 6:11)

*2 My loving Father, there you took me
To be henceforth your child and heir.
My faithful Savior, there you let me
The fruit of all your sorrows share.
O Holy Spirit, comfort me
When threat'ning clouds around I see.* (CW #294:2)

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

3 *My faithful God, you fail me never;
Your promise surely will endure.
Oh, cast me not away forever
If words and deeds become impure.
Have mercy when I come defiled;
Forgive, lift up, restore your child.*

(CW #294:3)

M: Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (*Ephesians 5:25-27*). Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (*spoken*) **Amen.**

4 *All that I am and love most dearly-
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely
And help me your own child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own
Serve any will but yours alone.*

(CW #294:4)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (*spoken*) **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 49:1-6

Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name. He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. He said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor.” But I said, “I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing. Yet what is due me is in the LORD’s hand, and my reward is with my God.” And now the LORD says – he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength – he says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.”

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 45

Beautiful Savior CW#369

Text: *Münsterisch Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677, abr.;
tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904.
based on Psalm 45:1,2

*Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, Truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer; He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.*

*Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be thine!*

SECOND LESSON

Acts 16:25-34

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

VERSE OF THE DAY

**C: Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.
Alleluia.** (Mark 1:11b cf. NIV84)

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:4-11

And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

HYMN

To Jordan's River Came Our Lord CW#89

Text: James P. Tiefel, b. 1949. © 1993

- 1 To Jordan's river came our Lord,
The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,
The God from God, the Light from Light,
The Lord of glory, pow'r, and might.*
- 3 As Jesus in the Jordan stood
And John baptized the Lamb of God,
The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove,
Descended on him from above.*
- 4 Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound
Came God's own voice with words profound:
"This is my Son," was his decree,
"The one I love, who pleases me."*
- 5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight
Anointed Christ in glorious sight
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall
To save the world and free us all.*
- 6 Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute!
This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.*

SERMON

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

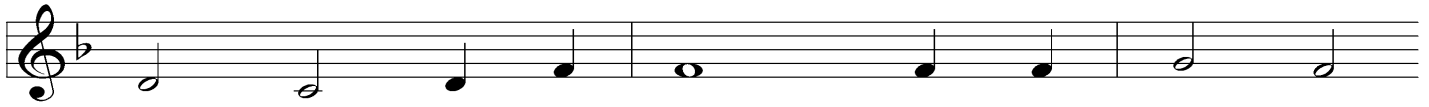
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

709 Christ, Your Footprints Through the Desert



1 Christ, your foot - prints through the des - ert Led to
 2 Christ, you heard the stir - ring sum - mons As by
 3 Son of God, the road from Jor - dan Led at
 4 God, in Bap - tism you have made us One with



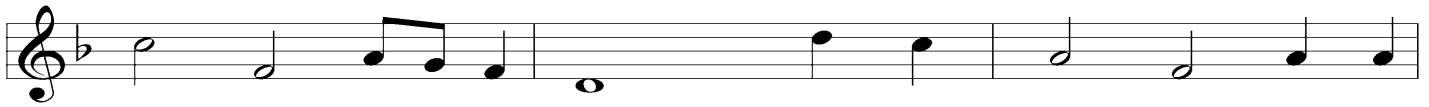
Jor - dan's flow - ing stream. There you heard the
 Jor - dan's bank you stood; Bathed, though sin - less,
 last to Cal - v'ry's hill. There up - on the
 Christ, our ris - en Lord; Freed us, claimed us,



her - ald cry - ing Is - rael's old pro - phet - ic
 with your peo - ple In the riv - er's cleans - ing
 cross for - sak - en, You ful - filled the Fa - ther's
 cleansed, for - giv - en Through the wa - ter and the



dream: "He is com - ing! He is com - ing! He will
 flood. High a - bove, the heav - ens o - pened; Came the
 will. Lamb of God, we see you dy - ing, Sin - less,
 Word. Help us hear your ur - gent sum - mons, Call - ing



cleanse the earth with flame! Sin - ners, plunge be - neath the
 Spir - it as a dove; Spoke a voice be - yond all
 yet for sin - ners slain. But where death rose up to
 us to serve you now. Send us forth, your sons and



wa - ters! Wash a - way your guilt and shame!"
 hear - ing: "See my Son, the one I love!"
 tri - umph, You be - gan your glo - rious reign!
 daugh - ters, With the cross up - on our brow.

This hymn not only underscores the significance of our Lord's baptism in his work of salvation but also demonstrates the intimate connection between his baptism and our own.

PRAYERS/LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Lord Jesus, at Your baptism You were revealed as the obedient and beloved Son of God anointed and armed to destroy Satan's work.

C: We thank You, beloved Son of God, that You took on Yourself the nature of a servant, became like us, and were obedient to the will of Your heavenly Father.

M: Eternal Word of God, You have connected your mighty Word and gracious promises to the water of Holy Baptism. There You cleansed us from sin, redeemed us from death, and clothed us in Your perfect righteousness.

C: Encourage us to remember our baptisms daily as we die to sin and rise to new life with You. Amen.

BLESSING

HYMN

**I Am Baptized into Christ CWS#737
on the next page**

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God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It



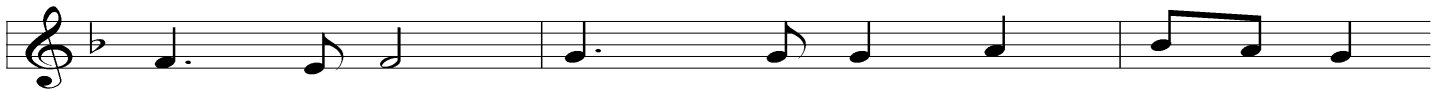
1 God's own child, I gladly say it:
 2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer:
 3 Sa - tan, hear this pro - ce - dure:
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness:
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing



I am bap - tized in - to Christ! He, be -
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ! I have
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ! Drop your
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ! When I
 To this life - long com - fort sure! O - pen -



cause I could not pay it, Gave my full re -
 com - fort e - ven strong - er: Je - sus' cleans - ing
 ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion; I am not so
 die, I leave all sad - ness To in - her - it
 eyed my grave is star - ing: E - ven there I'll



demp - tion price. Do I need earth's trea - sures
 sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y con - science
 soon en - ticed. Now that to the font I've
 par - a - dise! Though I lie in dust and
 sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a - waits its



man - y? I have one worth more than an - y
 seize me Since my bap - tism did re - lease me
 trav - eled, All your might has come un - rav - eled,
 ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance bright - ly flash - es:
 rais - ing, Still my soul con - tin - ues prais - ing:



That brought me sal - va - tion free,
 In a dear for - giv - ing flood,
 And, a - gainst your tyr - an - ny,
 Bap - tism has the strength di - vine
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ;



Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
 Sprink - ling me with Je - sus' blood?
 God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
 To make life im - mor - tal mine.
 I'm a child of par - a - dise!