

# THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 8, 2023

**Service Notes:** **Divine Service Setting Two, page 167**  
 Hymns: 596, 406, 384, 412, 400, 403, 594  
 Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:1-7  
 Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
 Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17  
 Sermon: *“With You I Am Well Pleased”* Matthew 3:13-17

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Thursday	12/29		No Divine Service
Sunday	01/01	9:00 a.m.	93

**FLOWERS** are given in celebration of Katie Sievert’s Baptismal birthday.

**HOLY COMMUNION** is celebrated today. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we follow the historic Christian practice of closed communion. According to the words of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11, only those who share the same outward confession of faith join us at the altar. Members of other LC-MS congregations are welcome, but we ask that you please see the pastor before communing.

**PRAYER OF COMFORT** for the family of William Blue who passed away on January 1. His funeral will be on Saturday, January 7. Visitation will be from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Prasser-Klecza Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at Our Father’s at 11:30 a.m. Blessed are those who die in the Lord for they shall inherit eternal life.

**THANK YOU** A note of thanks to the mystery person who left a gift in our church mailbox. It arrived at a very good time when needed.  
 Candace Kolter and Marilyn Kolter

**2023 FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP** The charts are now up in the narthex. Please consider signing up to sponsor flowers for the altar or bulletins in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special date or event. We are able to accommodate two flower donations and one bulletin donation per week. The cost for each is \$25. Write a separate check to Our Father’s Lutheran Church and put it in an envelope labeled on the outside *for flowers* OR *for bulletins*. This envelope may be placed *in the offering collection* OR *dropped off in the church office*.

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday	01/08	<b>DIVINE SERVICES</b> Sunday School/Adult Bible Class Scrip Orders Due	<b>8:00 &amp; 10:45 a.m.</b> 9:30 a.m.
Monday	01/09	Cousins Subs Donation Night	4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	01/10	Handbell Choir Practice ( <i>in the balcony</i> )	5:45 p.m.
Wednesday	01/11	Morning Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Thursday	01/12	<b>DIVINE SERVICE</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
Sunday	01/15	<b>DIVINE SERVICES</b> Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	<b>8:00 &amp; 10:45 a.m.</b> 9:30 a.m.

**WE PRAY** for Karen Awe, Michael Borchardt, Sr., Janet Brown, Jennifer Chapel (niece of Linda Christian), Karen Christiansen, Kevin Coerper, Anna Rose Consigny, Sandy Damms, Harriet Davidson, Cheryl Fisher (sister of Lynn Hester), Daut Gaba, Gerald Garske, Carol Georgson, Glenn Georgson, Judy Hanson, Jessica Hetts (niece of Virginia Scholz), Elaine Howe, Elaine Jenson, Jackie Johnson (mother of Don Johnson), Michelle Johnson, Konnie Otto, Angeline Pence, Jeff Pfander (brother of Todd Pfander), Virginia Scholz, Susan Sochowski (wife of Mark Sochowski), and Joan Wolfersdorff (sister-in-law of Donna Metzfeld).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL/ADULT BIBLE CLASS** Sunday School/Adult Bible Class resumes on January 8.

**COUSINS SUBS DONATION NIGHT** to support the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class will take place at the Cousins Subs located at 6201 South 27<sup>th</sup> Street in Greenfield (27<sup>th</sup> and College) on Monday, January 9. Come help the 8<sup>th</sup> graders raise money for their class trip. Come any time between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and 15% of sales will be donated to Our Father’s School.

**SCRIP** Orders are due Sunday, **January 8**. The next order due date is Sunday, February 5. A Scrip order box, order forms, and envelopes are located in the narthex and church/school office. Place your order and check made out to Our Father’s in one of the boxes, *OR* you may order online with the Presto Pay Plan at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com). The website has a list of participating retailers. **Please note that the website name has changed to raiseright.com, but the shopwithscrip.com link will still get you to the correct page to view vendors or place your order.** Call Linda Hojnacki with any questions at (414) 427-5949.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY** Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is seeking to fill the role of District Vice President in the South Wisconsin District. LCEF provides financial resources and related services for ministry, witness, and outreach of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). The

LCEF District Vice President acts as consultant to district LCMS congregations by building relationships, identifying needs and proposing solutions (loans, investments and ministry services). To find out more about this job opportunity, please visit LCEF Careers at: <https://lcef.org/careers/>

**CLASS OF 2023 COOKBOOKS** The Eighth Grade Class is selling cookbooks, "*OFLS Class of 2023 Favorite Recipes*," as a fundraiser for their trip to St. Louis. The books are \$13 with a collection of hundreds of favorite recipes. Contact an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student or the church/school office regarding purchasing a cookbook. Thank you for your continued support for this trip. The Class of 2023: Sebe, Orlando, Danny, Henry, Joshua, Mayah, Amber, Alivia, Brayden, and Mariah

***OUR FATHER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH, SCHOOL, AND CHILDCARE CENTER***

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**THE READINGS AND PSALMODY FOR  
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD  
January 8, 2023**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Isaiah 42:1-7 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Behold 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.  
<sup>2</sup> He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be discouraged  
till he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his law.  
<sup>5</sup> 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 on it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
<sup>6</sup> "I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;  
I will take you by the hand and keep you;  
I will give you as a covenant for the people,  
a light for the nations,  
<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
A: This is the Word of the Lord.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

## THE EPISTLE READING

### 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (ESV)

<sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

<sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

<sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,

<sup>29</sup> so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

<sup>30</sup> He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

<sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

### Matthew 3:13-17 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> 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; <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE PSALMODY

### Psalms 85:1-13 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup> You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.

<sup>3</sup> You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

<sup>4</sup> Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!

<sup>5</sup> Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

<sup>6</sup> Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

<sup>7</sup> Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

<sup>11</sup> Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

<sup>12</sup> Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup> Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

## INTROIT

Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come,

and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand.

I have found David, my servant;

with my holy oil I have anointed him.

I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;

with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

He shall cry to me, "You are my Father,

my God, and the Rock of my salvation."

And I will make him the firstborn,

the highest of the kings of the earth.

My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,

and my covenant will stand firm for him.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come,

and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand.

I have found David, my servant;

with my holy oil I have anointed him.

*Psalms 89:20, 1, 26-28 (trad. ant. based on 1 Chronicles 29:11)*

**THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER  
FOR THE WEEK OF  
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

*“With You I Am Well Pleased”*  
January 8 through January 14, 2023

*If our Lord had not sanctified the waters of Baptism by His own baptism, then we would have no benefit in this water. In this baptism, our Lord joins the ranks of sinners who call upon the mercy of the Father. Though He is the Holy One of Israel, He willingly comes to the waters to exchange His holiness for our sinfulness. Our Lord desires to fulfill all righteousness, that is, to fill us up with His own righteousness in our baptisms. There the Father declares to the world that we are the beloved sons of the Father in heaven. This water is not simple water, for the command and promise of God are attached to it. In baptism, the Father reveals that we are sons of God, even though we remain sinners in the eyes of the world until the day of our death. As the Father once announced to the world that the Divine Son of God was hidden in the Son of Man Jesus, so now we can take comfort in His declaration that we are His own dear children hidden in these weak mortal bodies.*

**INVOCATION:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

**THE CREED**

**VERSE:** <sup>38</sup> Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.

**Acts 2:38-39 (ESV)**

**COLLECT FOR THE WEEK:** O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of Your people who call upon You and grant that they both perceive and know what things they ought to do and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfill the same; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

**PSALM OF THE WEEK:** 112

**PSALMODY PRAYER:** Grant that we delight in Your commandments, O Lord, and live in remembrance of the righteousness of Your Son. Make us generous toward our neighbors and full of compassion. **AMEN.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Monday	Matthew 2:1-12
Tuesday	Matthew 2:13-15
Wednesday	Luke 2:41-52
Thursday	Genesis 39:1-23
Friday	Genesis 40:1-23
Saturday	John 2:1-11

**CATECHISM FOR THE WEEK: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

*What is Baptism?*

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

*Which is that word of God?*

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." *Matthew 28:19*

*What benefits does Baptism give?*

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

*Which are these words and promises of God?*

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." *Mark 16:16*

**Luther on Genesis 47:26 (1545):** But he did not teach astronomy or astrology, as the Jews dream. No, he taught how to know and worship the true God. And he had an excellent opportunity to do this because of the very illustrious miracle God had performed through him during the seven years of the famine. For experience was added to teaching, and the people saw this wonderful preservation of the whole kingdom and of several neighboring nations. All wondered from what source he had such wisdom that he predicted the famine so exactly and prepared so diligently for the necessities of life.

To this Joseph added the many outstanding sermons which the priests heard from him. They embraced the doctrine concerning God and spread it throughout the world. For he taught them the true religion and the wisdom of God. Yet he did not force ceremonies on them, circumcision or the observance of other rites. But he was careful to impress on them that they should believe in God, who had promised the Seed that was to come. And perhaps he also tolerated some of their own ceremonies—ceremonies which were not altogether godless and which he did not condemn but applied to the true service and worship of God.

Accordingly, Joseph was a great man, especially in spiritual matters, although he was by no means inferior in political matters. David praises both qualities (cf. Ps. 105:20–22). Nor was Joseph lazy; but wherever he had opportunities to do so, he taught and exhorted the people to embrace the pure doctrine. And there is no doubt that through him very many Egyptians were led to the true knowledge of God and were saved.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 15, 2023  
“Epiphanied His Glory”

**HYMNS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** 399, 402, 384, 394, 859, 395, 858

### READINGS

Amos 9:11-15  
Ephesians 5:22-33  
John 2:1-11

But he taught about God, who gave the promise at the very beginning in Paradise, later repeated the same promise rather frequently, and spoke to the fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For so much he himself knew, and he had nothing from the Bible except the history of Abraham, which begins in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis, and the preceding 10 chapters concerning the creation. Of these he had the knowledge that was handed down through the fathers. At that time the Bible was a small book, but it contained the greatest and most important things of all.

Yet we must not think that Joseph converted all Egypt and all the princes and citizens. For nowhere is there an example where one kingdom with all its subjects was improved and regulated in such a way that no vestiges of godless people and of idolatry remained. Look at the kingdom of Judah and Israel even under David and the best kings and prophets! While they ruled and taught, many evil and godless people were mingled in. Nevertheless, it was a saintly and godly kingdom because of the church, which at that time was among the people of Israel. (Luther, Lectures on Genesis, LW 8:129–130, Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1966)

**PRAYER:** Each day a different aspect of Christian life is covered.

Monday	Our Baptism, calling, and daily work
Tuesday	Deliverance from sin and temptation
Wednesday	Marriage, family, and schools
Thursday	The Lord’s Supper, the Church, and Her Pastors
Friday	The Preaching of the Cross, the persecuted, and missions
Saturday	True repentance and restoration of the withering
Sunday	The Hope of the resurrection and faithfulness to the Word

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

**LUTHER’S MORNING PRAYER:** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me that the Evil Foe may have no power over me. **AMEN.**

**OR**

**LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER:** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the Evil Foe may have no power over me. **AMEN.**

**HYMN OF THE WEEK:** LSB 384 “*Of the Father’s Love Begotten*”  
(stanza 2)

Amos, the prophet, cries out about the faithful Bridegroom of Israel who will restore Her and cause the hills to flow with an abundance of good wine. Those whom He would destroy would be rebuilt by the Son of God. So Jesus comes to Cana on the third day, which shall also be the day of His resurrection, for He will rebuild the temple in three days. The water points to the baptismal discussion with Nicodemus in John 3, and the wine foreshadows the discussion of the abundant blessings and joy of the Lord’s Supper in John 6. These two signs find their power in the blood and water which flow from the side of Christ at His death. The resurrection of Christ is the confirmation that we shall share in the benefits of the resurrection through these two sacraments. Here the bride and bridegroom are nameless, for they are simply the descendants of Adam and Eve suffering under the curse of sin. These are the ones to whom Christ brings His gracious deliverance and joy. We are those nameless descendants of our first parents who need the forgiveness that Christ pours out upon us in the Church through the means of His sacraments. The glory of Christ is revealed before us in the water of Holy Baptism as the baptized are washed by the blood of Christ. See it once more as the body and blood are offered to us on the altar for the forgiveness of our sins. There Christ reveals Himself to the eyes of faith that we might know our Bridegroom as the source of all mercy.