

Sunday, January 12, 2025 Baptism of Our Lord

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . .

fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

WELCOME! We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

Worshiping. Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

Communion: Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 270 South Broadway + Hicksville NY 11801 Church Office: Monday through Thursday, 8am - 2pm Church Office: 516-931-0710 Rev. Dr. Joann Heaney-Hunter Mason Griffin, Minister of Music Michelle Burkhardt, Parish Administrator (*email* <u>ststephenoffice@msn.com</u>) Church Website <u>www.ststephenshicksville.com</u> Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY 11801

+GATHERING+

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. C Amen.

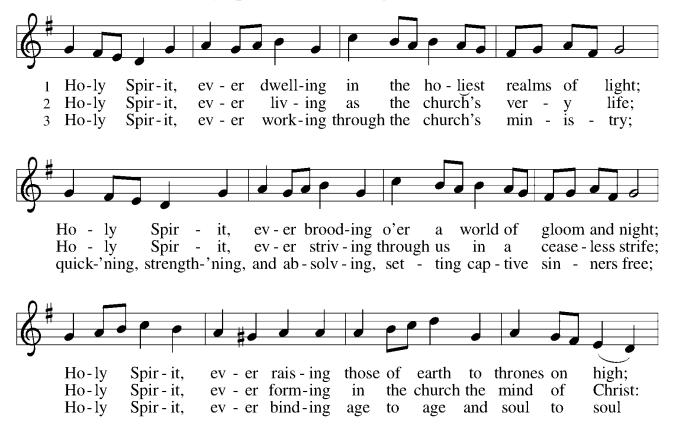
P Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

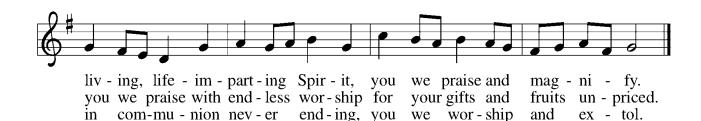
Pause for silent reflection.

P Merciful God, C you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your love and kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling (ELW 582)





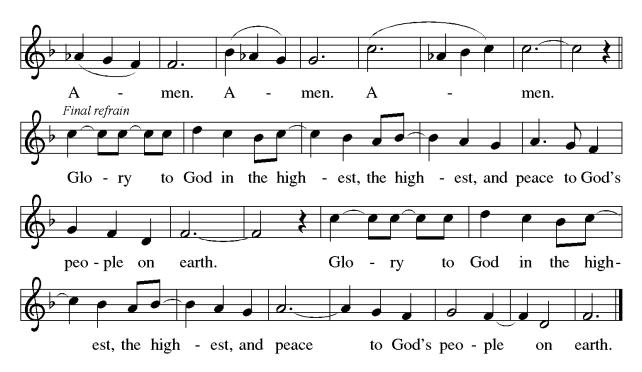
GREETING

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE







PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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. C Amen.

+WORD+

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7 A reading from Isaiah.

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. 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.

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. 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. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; 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—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." The word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.



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

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

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

The voice of the LORD is a pow-[|]erful voice; the voice of the LORD is a [|]voice of splendor. R

The voice of the LORD breaks the [|] cedar trees; the LORD breaks the ce-[|] dars of Lebanon;

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

The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. R

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!"

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

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

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

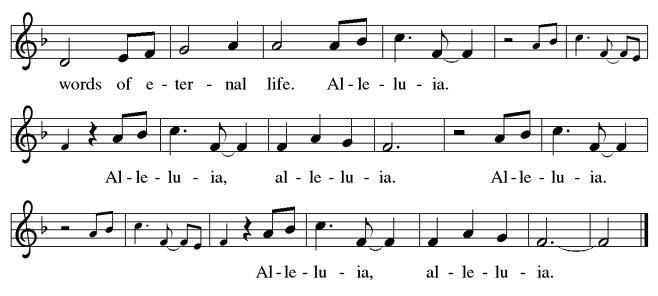
A reading from Acts.

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





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

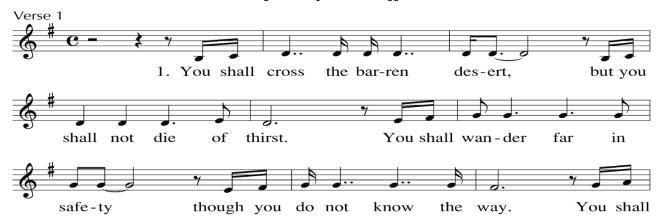
P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.

P The holy gospel according to Luke. C Glory to you, O Lord.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 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. 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."

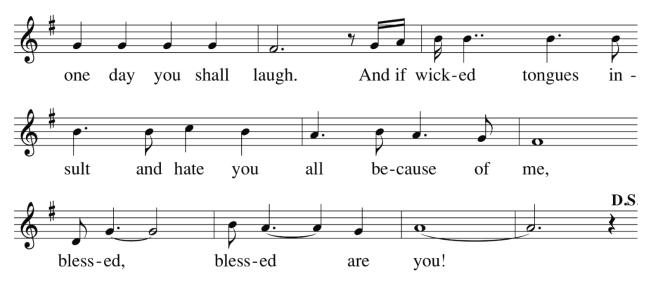
Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." The gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY: Be Not Afraid by Bob Dufford S.J





+ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM + LAURA MARIE FAZZINO

PRESENTATION

P Please be seated. Candidate for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font.

P God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

P Sponsors present: Laura Marie Fazzino

Joe and Michelle: We present Laura Marie for baptism.

Pr. Joann addresses parents:

P Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Laura Marie baptized into Christ? Ashley and Danny: We do.

P As you bring Laura Marie to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed and care for others and the world God made.

P Do you promise to help Laura Marie grow in the Christian faith and life? Ashley and Danny: We do.

Pr. Joann addresses sponsors:

P Joe and Michelle, do you promise to nurture Laura Marie in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? Joe & Michelle: We do.

Pr. Joann addresses the assembly:

P People of God, do you promise to support Laura Marie and pray for her in her new life in Christ? C We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Please stand.

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C We renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C We renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C We renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C 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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Assisting Minister pours water into the font during the thanksgiving.

P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished

them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your children, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

BAPTISM

P Laura Marie, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C Amen.

P Let us pray. C We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Pr. Joann lays hands on and prays for Laura Marie.

P Sustain Laura Marie with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. C Amen.

Pastor Joann marks the sign of the cross on Laura Marie's forehead.

P Laura Marie, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. C Amen.

PRESENTATION OF CANDLE

Gail Bodnar: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Wonder of Wonders

Melody: David Haas; Harmonization: Carl W. Gscheidle a = 84 6 Won - der Now with 1. Won 2. Now of won - ders, Life Make be le gin – bra – is ning, tion; re joic -- ing, - tion, ce ing Lord of cre Dv а and liv ing, d d 0



P Let us welcome Laura Marie Fazzino to the St. Stephen's community.

C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Join in applause!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Response to today's petition is: hear our prayer.

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

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

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. C And also with you.

P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

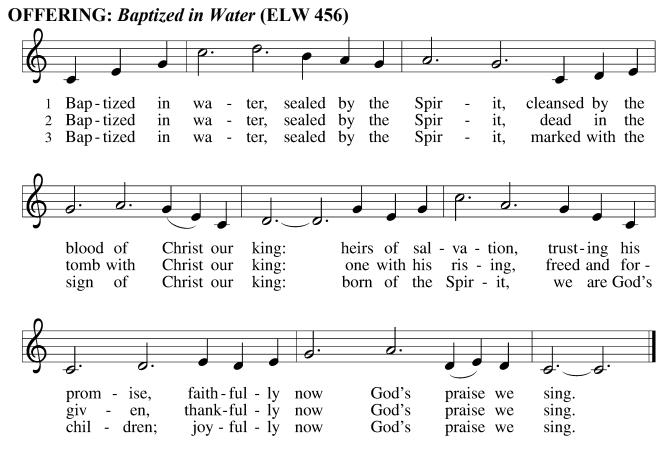
ADDITIONAL PRAYERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Tyler LaVorgna 1/14 Susan Portz 1/17 **BIRTHDAY SONG**

He who began a good work in you 2x Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x) Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x) He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you!

+MEAL+



OFFERING PRAYER

P 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. C Amen.

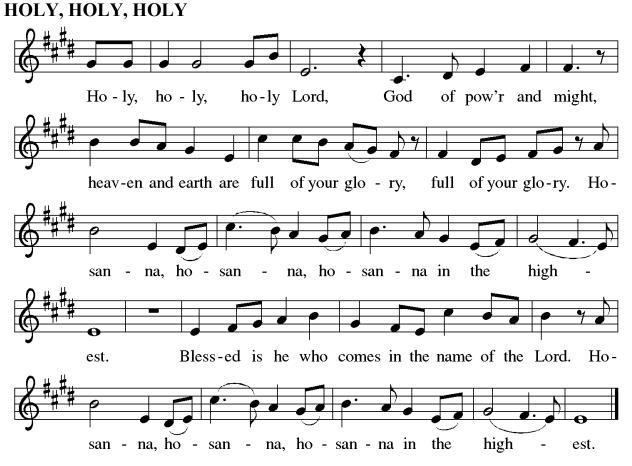
GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

- P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

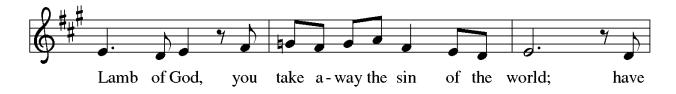
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C Our Father, who art in heaven,

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. C Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD







PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. 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.

C Amen

+SENDING+

P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.

BLESSING

P The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. C Amen.

SENDING SONG: We Are Called (ELW 720)





DISMISSAL A Go in peace. Christ is with you. **C** Thanks be to God.

Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

At our baptism, a hand is laid on us, invoking and inviting the Holy Spirit through benediction. Over our cleansed and blessed bodies willingly descends from the Father that Holiest Spirit. Over the waters of baptism reposes the Spirit, who glided down on the Lord in the shape of the dove. The very nature of the Holy Spirit was declared by means of this symbol of simplicity and innocence: accordingly Jesus says, "Be innocent as doves." After the waters of the deluge, by which the old iniquity was purged—after the baptism, so to say, of the world—a dove was the herald that announced to the earth the placating of celestial wrath. The dove had been sent from the ark and had returned with the olive branch, which even among the nations is a sign of peace. In the same way, the dove of the Holy Spirit flies to the earth—that is, to our flesh—as we emerge from the font, bringing us the peace of God.—*Tertullian*

Upcoming Commemorations

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968 ~ Wednesday, January 15, 2025

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356 ~ Friday, January 17, 2025

One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.

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Announcements for the week of January 12, 2025

Altar flowers were given in Honor of Laura Marie Fazzino's Baptism by Maryann and Bill Demaso

HAPPYBRTHDAY

Tyler LaVorgna 1/14 Susan Portz 1/17 Anisa Belle Ruiz 1/20 Bill Artus 1/27 Jane Ebersberger 1/28 Lauren Artus 1/29 Sophie Maureen Pendas 1/30 Emilia Cea 1/30

~ Please join us for the coffee hour.

~ 2025 Offering Envelopes ~ If you haven't taken your envelopes yet, please remember to *take them today*. Help St. Stephen's save on postage!

~ A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly Sunday service altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial/in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored/memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at (516) 931-0710

F	PARISH CALENDA	R THIS WEEK (January 13 th - January 19 th)	
Today	Baptism of	Baptism of our Lord	
	9:30 am	Holy Communion	
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Back to Basics	
Next Sunday, Second Sunday after Epiphany			
	9:30 am	Holy Communion	

SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY

	<u>Sunday, 9:30 AM</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER:	Beth Feeney
LECTOR:	Dave Staton
ACOLYTE:	Sara LaGuarina
USHERS:	John Musi & Kevin Barcavage
ACCOMPANIST	Mason Griffin & Greg Hunter
GREETER:	Claire Parrett
AUDIO/VISUAL:	Tyler LaVorgna
ALTAR GUILD:	Beth & Jane

PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. <u>Please remember to keep the office updated.</u>

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Bill Artus Dottie Eberhardt Roger Engert Ilona Riggers

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien) James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger) Jim Fritz (cousin of Lauren Artus and John Langbehn) William Stanton (cousin of Kellie Barone)

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Rich Carlstrom (friend of the Staton family) Cheryl Glasini (friend of the Ahlers-Pendas family) John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger) Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien) Sarah Motyka (friend of the Maurer family) Megan Mudd (friend of the Staton family) Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger) John Sheridan (friend of Bob and Nan Maurer)