

First Lutheran Church

Albany, New York

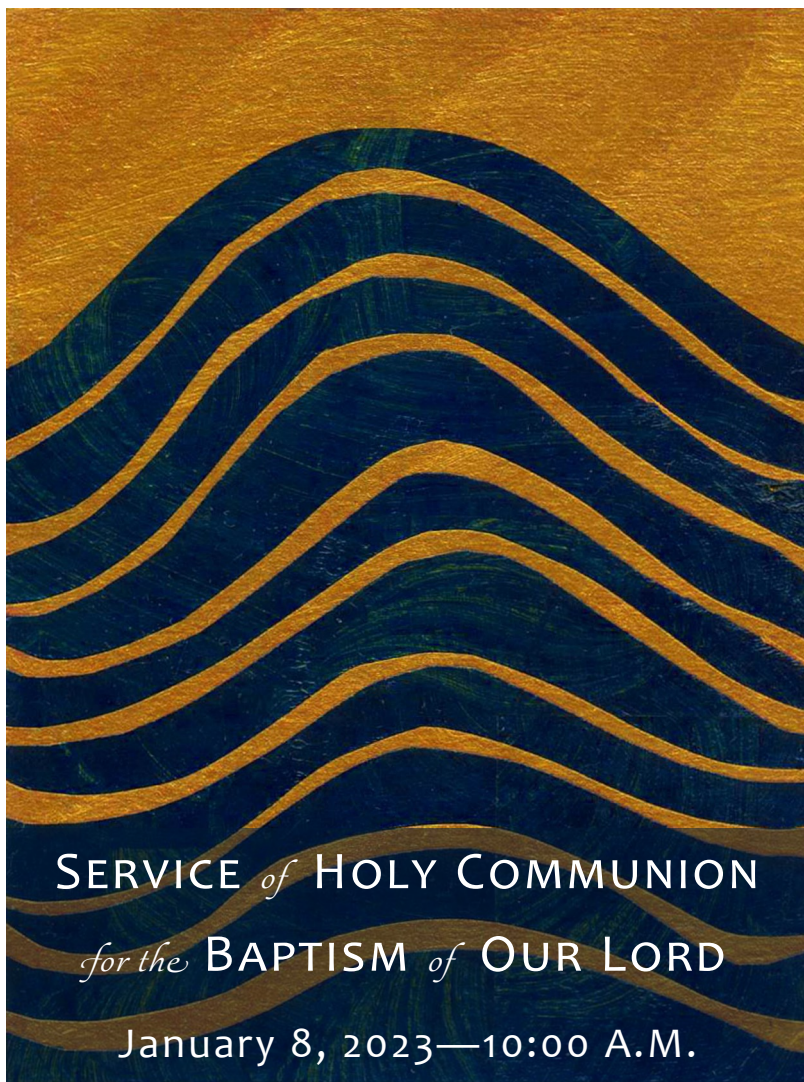


Image: Baptism of the Beloved. © Jan Richardson. Janrichardson.com



181 Western Avenue • Albany
518-463-1326

Mailing Address:
646 State Street, Albany, NY 12203-1217



ORDER of WORSHIP

OUR WORSHIP SPANS MANY LOCATIONS. We welcome you in Hartwick Lounge or online on Zoom.

Zoom connection: <http://firstlutheranalbany.org/zoom> or call 301-715-8592 or 929-436-2866. The meeting code is 518-463-1326, the passcode is "1"

WORSHIPPING REMOTELY? Look for "**Remote Assembly:**" notes to aide your participation. You are encouraged to gather elements for communion and prepare a sacred space for worship.

PRELUDE

Two Variations on "Shall We Gather at the River" (Hanson Place)

Nancy M. Raabe (b. 1954), Jerry van der Pol

ANNOUNCEMENTS

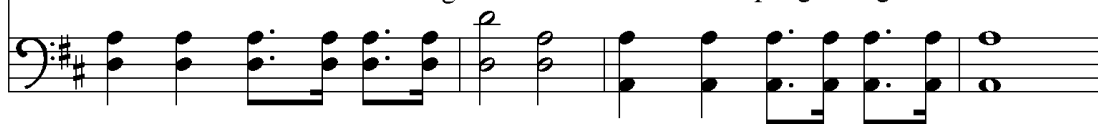
GATHERING HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River (verses 1&4)

ELW #423



- 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

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.**

READING

Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

A reading from Acts.

³⁴Peter began to speak to Cornelius and his household: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how 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. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did

both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not 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. ⁴²He 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. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

Pastor Chilton

SILENCE*Silence for reflection. The silence is closed by the ringing of a bell.***HYMN OF THE DAY**

When Jesus Came to Jordan

ELW #305



1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John,
 2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,
 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;



he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.
 for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.
 this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond-age break.



He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,
 So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,
 Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:



to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
 the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
 to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we gather in many spaces, our prayers are led by people gathered in many spaces. The presiding minister invites us into prayer and leads the first petition. A different person leads each petition, and the presiding minister closes with the collect.

Pastor Chilton: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Pastor Chilton: Calling God, you speak with power to your church. Open our hearts and minds to the new things you are declaring. Strengthen bishops, pastors, deacons, lay leaders, and teachers of the faith. Equip the baptized for your reconciling and redeeming work.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

2. Abiding God, your mercy is steadfast. Give sanctuary to people who flee from oppression, war, poverty, and famine. Sustain health care workers, caregivers, first responders, counselors, and all who help and heal. Comfort those who are grieving or experiencing crisis especially those who are named on our prayer list and those whom we name here aloud or silently in our hearts...

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

3. Blessing God, in Christ you gather the beloved community. Kindle the gifts of your Spirit in your people. Accompany the newly baptized, those recently ordained, and any beginning a new ministry. Inspire synodical leaders and congregational councils to serve with imagination and wisdom.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

4. Promising God, your faithfulness endures throughout all generations. We give thanks for those who have died in Christ, trusting that we will be united with them and all the saints in Christ's resurrection life.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Pastor Chilton: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ.

OFFERING

An offering is collected for the mission of God's church. There are collection plates at the entrances to the lounge or you may make a gift online FirstLutheranAlbany.org/give

Or you may want to scan this QR Code with your phone camera to make a gift.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

An assisting minister invites the assembly into prayer.

Let us pray.

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and
shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore,
through Jesus our Savior,
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of pow'r and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Remote Assembly: *you are invited to lift your bread with the presiding minister.*

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remote Assembly: *you are invited to lift your cup with the presiding minister.*

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Come and taste the joy of God!
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

The presiding minister addresses the remote assembly:

You who are gathering today from a distance, hear these words:
The body of Christ is given for you.
The blood of Christ is shed for you.

The assembly in the lounge communes by tables. The pastor and an assisting minister will bring a plate of bread and pitcher of juice to each table and commune the first person. You'll pass the bread and pitcher around the table communing one another, saying the following:

(with the bread) The body of Christ is given for you.

(with the juice) The blood of Christ is shed for you.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION *As the Grains of Wheat*

ELW #465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
 gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
 all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,
 2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

An assisting minister invites the assembly into prayer.

Let us pray.

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

God bless you and keep you.

God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

God look upon you with favor ☩ and give you peace. **Amen**

SENDING SONG

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

ELW #547

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
 the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
 our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
 em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
 With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
 lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
 Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
 give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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DISMISSAL

An assisting minister sends us forth.

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Please remain in the lounge as we shift into the Vision Workgroup conversation.

POSTLUDE**Allegro Moderato****Flor Peeters (1903-1986)**

SERVING THIS MORNING:

Presiding Minister: The Rev. D. Lowell Chilton

Assisting Ministers: The Siegenthaler Family

Altar Guild: Judy Carlson

Coffee Hour: Barbara Shafarzek

Video Tech: Joseph Markowski

Musician: David Vredenburg

**Vision Workgroup Report &
Conversation**

Starting right after worship, the Vision Workgroup will lead a conversation about our shared vision for God's mission for us. Please stay in the lounge or on Zoom following worship for this important meeting.

Immediate Shelter Needs!!

Hats, Gloves & Neck/Face Masks!

Powdered drink mixes

(Kool-Aid, tea, lemonade, etc.)

**Heavy-Duty large paper plates, bowls &
6 oz. or 8 oz. coffee cups
(NO Styrofoam)**

Thursday Night Reads

We started on January 5, but you can jump in and join us at the next meeting on ZOOM on January 19th at 7:00 p.m.

In the foreword to the book, Rachel Held Evans calls Pastor Emmy Kegler, “the best kind of weird.” Pastor Emmy is an ELCA pastor with an impressive command of scripture, pop culture, nerd culture, board games, doodling, and life. She is the best kind of weird and book *One Coin Found* is a beautiful memoir full of stories of God finding and loving the weird people all around us, including us.

Grab a copy from your favorite bookseller and gather on Zoom biweekly on Thursdays to encounter Pastor Emmy's weirdness and encounter stories of God finding the lost right where they are.

Our Mission Statement

We are a metropolitan parish committed to Christ-centered ministry in the city of Albany, New York. We rejoice in the manner in which God has graced us with unity in a glorious diversity. We welcome all to share in the life and ministry of First Lutheran regardless of age, race, socio-economic or marital status, physical or mental capabilities, or sexual orientation.



We are a “Reconciling in Christ” congregation and as such we are dedicated to being sanctuary (safe-haven) to all God’s people. We are also committed in the name of Jesus to work for justice and peace in our neighborhood, in our community, and throughout the world.

Adopted: June 19, 2005

WE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN PRAYER:

Joyce Aiello, Elga Alksnis, Adrienne Casler, Ruth Dyer, Terry Engelhardt, Trudy Fedden, Bob Frost, Susan Harper, Marcia Hoyt, Esme Katagiri, Clara LaBaron, Barbara McGuinness, Diane Mead, Tom Salzer, Geri Saulpaugh, Daniel Smith, Ed & Donna Vining.

Our Friends & Family:

- Anna Bestenheider
- Dan Brodax
- Luke Brodax
- Regina Brown
- Sue Bulman
- Marie Delorenzo
- Gail Denman
- Alison Dignan
- Brion Ebert
- Rachel Evans
- Tim Gran
- Chris Goyette & family
- Susan Hoffman
- Kathy Horner
- Eric Huntington
- Roberta Jakubiak
- Gail LaPlante
- James & Barbara Lasher
- Gloria Mangano
- Ben Markowski
- Darlene Martel
- Walter Masten
- Robert Mitman
- Laura Nixon

- Sal Paonessa
- Nick & Cathy Ramsey
- Jennifer Saulpaugh
- William Saulpaugh
- Susan Sawyer
- Doug Sippel
- Melissa & Amanda Sippel
- Christopher Sullivan
- Irma VanDelac
- Marcy VanZandt
- Alyson Ward
- Matthew & Michael Ward
- Mike Ward
- Weiler family

Our Men and Women in Uniform:

- SGT Heather Dilcher
- CPL Michael Dilcher
- SSgt. Taylor Engelhardt

Our Wider Mission Concerns:

- For Jo Page, Conference Dean
- For Lee Miller, II, Bishop UNYS
- For Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA



The Rev. D. Lowell Chilton, Pastor

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Julie Lind, Parish Administrator

Julie@firstlutheranalbany.org

Phone: 518-463-1326

Church office hours:

Monday thru Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Visit Our Website:

www.FirstLutheranAlbany.org

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