Baptism Of Our Lord January 12, 2025

New Hope Lutheran Church

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Welcome - Thank you for sharing worship

Leading Worship

Ministers **Every Member and Friend** Presiding Pastor Jeff Swanson Ministry of Music Gail Manago Worship Assistant Martina Jackson Martina Jackson Reader Leta Marsh & Larry Tarin Ushers Tech Team Kathy Brosch, Miguel Hernandez, Jeff Strom Sound **Howard Swan** Video Craig Sharp/Steve Marshall

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.

The Rite of Confession & Forgiveness. It first appeared in the Middle Ages. Confession was introduced as part of the Priest's personal preparation for worship. With the Reformation the confession was opened to the entire congregation

All may make the sign of the cross \pm , the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins. Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

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

Merciful God,

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 lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways.

Amen.

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. **Amen.**

ELW 677 (Red) This Little Light Of Mine

- 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine; ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine; ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine; Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine; Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual Music & Text: Public Domain

Prayer Of The Day— this prayer collects us together in prayer before the triune God and turns us toward the scripture themes of the day.

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.

Amen.

Come Holy Spirit and speak to us through the scripture readings,

Assigned but not read: Psalm 29 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

The First Reading is from the 43rd Chapter of Isaiah

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

¹ 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.

² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶ 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— ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Come Lord Jesus

Fill our hearts

The Second Reading is from the 8th Chapter of Acts

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Come Lord Jesus

Fill our hearts

The Gospel is from the 3rd Chapter of Luke

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² 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.

Praise to You O, Christ

Message: Pastor Jeff Swanson

ELW 459 (Red) Wade In The Water

[A leader sings the words in parentheses]

Refrain

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children, wade in the water, God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

- (See that host all dressed in white,)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
 (the leader looks like the Israelite.)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. Refrain
- (See that band all dressed in red,)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
 (looks like the band that Moses led.)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. Refrain
- 3 (Look over yonder, what do I see?)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
 (the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. Refrain
- 4 (If you don't believe I've been redeemed,)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
 (just follow me down to Jordan's stream.)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. Refrain

Text: African American spiritual Music & Text: Public Domain

The Prayers

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

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over our Rio Grande and our very dry mountains. Lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace, hear our prayer.

5

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide legislators, officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace, hear our prayer.

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You draw us into community. Nurture the work of the Border Servant Corps and all who work on behalf of immigrants and refugees. Equip each of us to use our gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

Peace ~ Matthew 5:23-24 If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your sister or brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Also Romans 16:16, 1 Corinthians 16:20, "greet one another," a symbol of peace and of love.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Our Offerings to God In gratitude to God we return a part of what he has given us as an offering realizing that all we have is God's. The offering that is gathered is for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need locally and worldwide.

Enjoy the special music as the gifts are gathered.

After the gifts are gathered, please stand as you are able and join in singing.

My Soul Magnifies The Lord

Purple 104

My soul magnifies the Lord
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
My soul magnifies the Lord
And my spirit rejoices in God
For the Mighty One has done great deeds
I will follow Him as the Spirit leads

He has filled the hungry with good things Blessed be the Lord blessed be the Lord

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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.

Amen.

The Meal

Communion – Simply being here makes you a part of the New Hope Family. We invite and welcome everyone to share this sacred time of fellowship, forgiveness and renewal. More importantly, it is Jesus himself who welcomes and urges you to come forward. In this "meal" of Communion we believe that Christ is truly present and comes to us, in, with and under the bread and wine. Christ's real presence is one of the great mysteries of faith. This gift of Christ's very self in the bread and wine proclaims God's saving Word, feeds and nourishes our faith, forgives our sins, and sends us into the world to continue to be Christ's real presence in the world today.

Christ is here among us.

Christ is truly with us.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us join together praying as Jesus taught us:

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

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

Come to Christ's banquet.

Feast on God's gift of grace.

Communion Distribution

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say; The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. Each person may respond, Amen. The wine is red, if you prefer grape juice is light color. Place your empty cups in the baskets on the side.

ELW 407 (Red) O Living Breath Of God

- 1 O living Breath of God, wind at the beginning upon the waters; O living Breath of God, bearing the creation to wondrous birth;
- O living Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth among us; O living Breath of God, who to the creation gives life anew;
- 3 O living Breath of God, bearing us to life through baptismal waters; O living Breath of God, sighing with creation for freedom's birth;

Refrain

Come now, and fill our spirits; pour out your gifts abundant. O living Breath of God, Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.

Text: Osvaldo Catena, 1920-1986; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
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Post-Communion Prayer

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,

Amen.

Announcements

- # "Get Together" Lunch on Tuesday, January 21 sign up sheet in the back
- ➡ My Last Wishes Classes will be held on February 8 and 22 from 2-4pm A sign up sheet is in the back. Seating is limited to 24
- **For** more announcements, see your bulletin

ACS 942 (Blue) Every Time I Feel The Spirit

Refrain

Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray. Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

- 1 Upon the mountain my Lord spoke, out of his mouth came fire and smoke. *Refrain*
- 2 All around me looked so fine, asked my Lord if all was mine. *Refrain*
- Jordan river, chilly and cold, chills the body but not the soul. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

Benediction Blessing

We Are Sent Into The World To Share What Has Been Given To Us

Please stand as you are able

Please join in singing the Sending Song

Brothers, sisters, all are we part of God's great family. As we go from this place, may God keep us in His grace. May God keep us in His grace.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE TODAY.

We are so glad you worshipped here today and invite you again. If you are looking for a faith family we invite you to consider New Hope.

The Mission of New Hope is to discover, experience, and share God's love with our hearts, hands and voices.

New Hope's Vision: As followers of Christ we will:

-encourage a spiritual journey

-celebrate the diversity and gifts that each person brings

-learn from each other

-engage with the world around us

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.

Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346, Friday, January 17, 2025

Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.

Confession of Peter, Saturday, January 18, 2025

Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.

Pastor on January 19 – Vicar Thania Drake

Readings for January 19: Isaiah 62:1-5 *As bridegroom and bride rejoice, so shall God rejoice over you,* Psalm 36:5-10 We feast upon the abundance of your house, O Lord. (*Ps. 36:8*), 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 *There are a variety of gifts but the same Spirit,* John 2:1-11 *The wedding at Cana*



The Voice of God

Are you longing to hear God's voice? What would it be like to hear God call you by name? For many it seems that God spoke to people long ago and far away, but now in this time and place God's voice is much less clear and less audible. Perhaps we cannot hear the voice of God because our world is full of noise? Perhaps we are not open to the particular frequency in which God chooses to call us? Perhaps we continually tune out this heavenly summons with our daily rush, not taking the time to quiet ourselves, our minds, our inner voices. We can use this time after Epiphany to clear out a corner of our lives for quiet prayer, meditation, or centering. Maybe then we will be able to hear . . . to sense . . . to listen. Listen! God's voice comes from heaven to call us by name, speak to the earth, shake the wilderness, and to anoint "the Beloved." Listen! God's people speak words of covenant, commitment, and community in the liturgy of baptism. Listen! God's word surrounds this day with power and majesty and "in the temple of the Lord all are crying, 'Glory!'" (Ps. 29:9). In this season of epiphanies, today's miraculous encounter with the living God immerses us in the sound of God's voice and bathes us in God's baptismal promise. All who are splashed by this water gasp, cry, exclaim, sigh, and sing. Let all who have breath, praise the Lord!



Interim Pastor Vicar Katie's Pantry Directors Rocky Mountain Synod ELCA Churchwide Pastor Jeff Swanson
Thania Drake
Mary Anez & The Rev Jeff St. Clair
The Rev Dr. Meghan Aelabouni, Bishop
The Rev Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop