

Baptism of Our Lord

January 11, 2026

10:30 AM

Image Artist: David Zelenka (2005)
Vanderbilt University Collection: Art in the Christian Tradition



University Lutheran Church of Hope is a welcoming, Christian community of faith centered on God's grace and called to demonstrate God's love for the world. University Lutheran Church of Hope is a Reconciling in Christ congregation with a commitment to racial equity.

Welcome. Peace be with you.

We continue our holy experiment. We're worshipping together in-person and virtually on YouTube. Welcome to all!

For those worshipping in-person, please remember:

- ❖ **To support the health and wellness of all those among us**, feel welcome to use masks and hand sanitizer, stay current with your vaccinations, and stay home as needed if you are unwell.
- ❖ **We honor one another's boundaries** by asking permission to be in close proximity, and finding alternate ways to greet one another and share the peace (a deep bow, the peace sign, an air hug, etc.). Our risk levels and comfort differ.
- ❖ **In our service today, we will share Holy Communion.** Ushers will direct you.
- ❖ **If you are new to the community** and wish to speak with a Pastor or be included in our communication and activities, fill out the blue slip in the pew rack and give it to an usher. We'll follow up. It's also just fine to be anonymous. To get more involved, check out our website: <http://www.ulch.org/> To receive the weekly enews, the Thursday Epistle, contact our church administrator at ulch@ulch.org.
- ❖ **Children are welcome in worship.** Kids, grab your SPARK Story Bibles. Craft tables are available for families. Note: The nursery is not staffed, but is available for your use. The nursery is on the upper level of the education wing, most easily reached from the doors nearest the baptismal font.
- ❖ **After worship, enjoy the time to linger for conversation** in the lounge, courtyard and patio.

Land Acknowledgment

This Land Acknowledgment, and our response, are both a work in progress. We're actively engaged in a process to move beyond a simple acknowledgment, and toward a more active commitment. Watch for more opportunities for our community.

We gather for worship on the land of our Creator. Many of us and our church building dwell in the traditional home of the Dakota people, and a land over which the Anishinaabeg people and others also moved. They gathered and ate food, rested, died and gave birth, and prayed here, and many still do.

GATHERING

+ Indicates the assembly stand as able. Assembly parts are marked in **bold**.

ELW refers to the red hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. ACS refers to *All Creation Sings*, an ELW supplement.

Prelude When Jesus Came to Jordan (ELW 305) arr. Aaron Shows

Welcome

+ Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters. Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,

you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ☩ Jesus' name.

May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. Amen.

+ **Gathering Hymn** Crashing Waters at Creation ELW 455

+ Greeting

The grace of 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

God of grace and glory, **you call us with your voice of flame to be your people, faithful and courageous. As your beloved Son embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us with the fire of your Spirit to join in his transforming work. We ask this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.** *(From Vanderbilt Divinity Library)*

WORD

Children's Message

Reading - Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is 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.
He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
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 upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

»Este es mi siervo, a quien sostengo,
mi escogido, en quien me deleito;
sobre él he puesto mi Espíritu
y llevará justicia a las naciones.
No clamará, ni gritará,
ni alzaré su voz en las calles.
No acabará de romper la caña quebrada
ni apagará la mecha que apenas arde.
Con fidelidad hará justicia;
no vacilará ni se desanimará
hasta implantar la justicia en la tierra.
En su enseñanza las costas lejanas pondrán su esperanza».
Así dice Dios el SEÑOR,
el que creó y desplegó los cielos;
el que expandió la tierra
y todo lo que ella produce; el que da aliento al pueblo
que la habita y vida a los que en ella se mueven:
«Yo, el SEÑOR, te he llamado en justicia;
te tomaré de la mano.
Yo te preservaré, yo te constituiré como pacto para el
pueblo, como luz para las naciones,
para abrir los ojos de los ciegos,
para librar de la cárcel a los presos
y del calabozo a los que habitan en tinieblas.
»Yo soy el SEÑOR; jese es mi nombre!
No entrego a otros mi gloria
ni mi alabanza a los ídolos.
Las cosas pasadas se han cumplido
y ahora anuncio cosas nuevas;
las anuncio antes que sucedan».

Palabra de Dios, palabra de vida.

Demos gracias a Dios.

Reading - Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and his household: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how 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. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not 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. He 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. All 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.

Pedro tomó la palabra y dijo:—Ahora comprendo que en realidad para Dios no hay favoritismos, sino que en toda nación él ve con agrado a los que le temen y actúan con justicia. Dios envió su mensaje al pueblo de Israel, anunciando las buenas noticias de la paz por medio de Jesucristo, que es el Señor de todos. Ustedes conocen este mensaje que se difundió por toda Judea, comenzando desde Galilea, después del bautismo que predicó Juan. Me refiero a Jesús de Nazaret: cómo lo ungió Dios con el Espíritu Santo y con poder, y cómo anduvo haciendo el bien y sanando a todos los que estaban oprimidos por el diablo, porque Dios estaba con él. Nosotros somos testigos de todo lo que hizo en la tierra de los judíos y en Jerusalén. Lo mataron, colgándolo de un madero, pero Dios lo resucitó al tercer día y dispuso que se apareciera, no a todo el pueblo, sino a nosotros, testigos previamente escogidos por Dios, que comimos y bebimos con él después de su resurrección. Él nos mandó a predicar al pueblo y a dar solemne testimonio de que ha sido nombrado por Dios como juez de vivos y muertos. De él dan testimonio todos los profetas: que todo el que cree en él recibe, por medio de su nombre, el perdón de los pecados.

Palabra de Dios, palabra de vida.

Demos gracias a Dios.

+ Gospel Acclamation

Take Me to the Water (*vss. 1 & 4*)

Spiritual, ACS 957



1	Take me to the wa	-	ter, take me to the wa	-	ter,
2	I . . . love . . Je	-	sus, I . . . love . . Je	-	sus,
3	He's . . my . . Sav	-	ior, he's . . my . . Sav	-	ior,
4	Glo - ry, hal - le - lu	-	jah. Glo - ry, hal - le - lu	-	jah.



take me to the wa	-	ter	to	be	bap - tized.
I . . . love . . Je	-	sus,	oh,	yes,	I do.
he's . . my . . Sav	-	ior,	oh,	yes,	he is.
Glo - ry, hal - le - lu	-	jah	to	be	bap - tized.

+ Gospel Reading - Matthew 3:13-17

The gospel according to Matthew the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Un día Jesús fue de Galilea al Jordán para que Juan lo bautizara. Pero Juan trató de disuadirlo. —Yo soy el que necesita ser bautizado por ti, ¿y tú vienes a mí? —objetó. —Hagámoslo como te digo, pues nos conviene cumplir con lo que es justo —contestó Jesús. Entonces Juan consintió. Tan pronto como Jesús fue bautizado, subió del agua. En ese momento se abrió el cielo y vio al Espíritu de Dios bajar como una paloma y posarse sobre él. Y una voz desde el cielo decía: «Este es mi Hijo amado; estoy muy complacido con él».

El Evangelio del Señor.

Alabanza a ti, oh Cristo!

Sermon - Pastor Amanda Simons

+ Hymn of the Day

Baptized and Set Free

ELW 453

Prayers of the People

Following each petition: Merciful God, receive our prayer.

+ Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

La paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes.

And also with you.

Y también contigo.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ using these or similar words "Peace be with you" or "La paz del Señor."

MEAL

Offertory

A Prayer of St. Francis

Harry Banks (1950)

Thank you for your continued generosity! Donations may be sent electronically or by mail, or placed in the offering plate in the center of our space as you come forward for Holy Communion. A QR code is available on the last page of the bulletin.

+ Offertory Prayer

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to our gracious God.

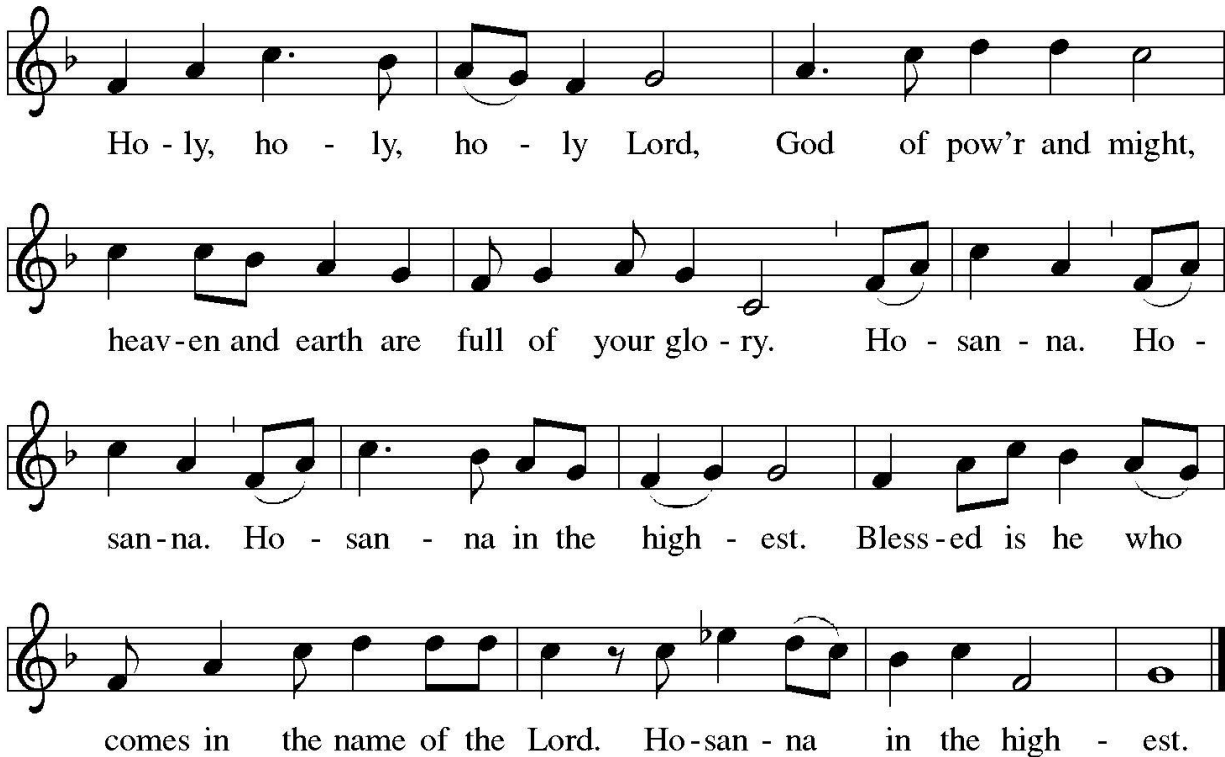
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed...join their unending hymn:

+ Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW communion setting 3



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

+ Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

+ The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, Our Mother, 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.

Creador nuestro, Madre nuestra, Padre nuestro que
estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre. Venga tu
reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el
cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona
nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el
poder y tuya es la gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén.

Holy Communion

We believe that Jesus Christ is present in Holy Communion with gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. All who hunger for the presence of Christ in their life are invited to partake. By our participation in this meal and blessing, we are strengthened in faith and in life. All are welcome to commune.

If you are at home and sitting with others...

When sharing the bread with someone, say to them: "This is the body of Christ, given for you." When sharing the wine or grape juice, say, "This is the blood of Christ, shed for you."

If you are at home on your own...

Hear the voice of the pastor naming these promises of grace and life for you. If you'd prefer a blessing, hear these promises: "You are a beloved child of God. May God strengthen you with grace through Christ for all we face today."

If you are worshipping in-person today...

We invite you to come forward to receive the elements and hear the words of promise, or to receive a blessing. Following the direction of the ushers, come forward: pick up a cup, gather around the table, receive the bread (gluten free is available), the servers will pour into your cup either the red wine or white grape juice, place used cups in the basket. Children of all ages are welcome to partake at Holy Communion.

If you seek healing prayers today...

A healing minister is available during Holy Communion this morning. If you'd like prayers for healing for yourself, for those you love, or for other situations, you are invited to come to one of the healing ministers. You can ask for specific prayers, or simply ask them to pray with you...and they will. During this time, you may also dip into the baptismal waters and remember the promises, and light candles for situations around the world and close to home.

Music During Communion	When Jesus Came to Jordan	ELW 305
	Come, Beloved of the Maker	ELW 306

+ Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.
Amen.

+ Prayer after Communion

Radiant God, We have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of communion you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Announcements

SENDING

+ Sending Hymn	Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized	ELW 304
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+ Blessing

May God who called Jesus "beloved" speak blessing to you, beloved children of God, and empower you to bring that good news to others who still need to hear it.

+ Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God!

Vayan en paz. Hagan justicia. Amen la
misericordia. **Gracias a Dios!**

Postlude

Fanfare for a New Day

J. Wayne Kerr

Staff at University Lutheran Church of Hope

Lead Pastor

Rev. Amanda Simons (she/her)
amandas@ulch.org

Pastor

Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert (she/her)
mariaa@ulch.org

Minister of Worship and Music

Paul Stever (he/him)
pauls@ulch.org

Church Administrator

Nathan Obrestad (he/him)
nathano@ulch.org

Financial Administrator

Catherine Menick (she/her)
FinAdmin@ulch.org

Sunday Opener/Closer, Worship Tech

Please share our open position

Custodian

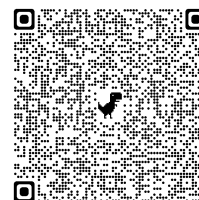
Geremew Beshah (he/him)

Lutheran Campus Pastor

Kate Reuer Welton (she/her)
kate@umnlutheran.org

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University Lutheran Church of Hope

601 13th Avenue SE

Minneapolis, MN 55414-1437

612.331.5988 www.ulch.org

Office hours: 9am to 2pm weekdays

Today’s Worship Leaders

Pastor Amanda Simons, Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert (presiding ministers); James Flaten (assisting minister); Paul Stever (musician); Paul Demeules, Ruth Hedman, John Lauber, John Beane (communion servers); Elaine Reed (lector); Alex Carlson (worship tech facilitator); Elaine Sarkela (greeter); Tim Abrahamson, Ron Sorensen (ushers); Malena Carlson, Magda VanHeuvelen (acolytes); Carol Flaten (worship prep); Pauline Hendrickson, Leena Rapacz (communion clean-up); Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert, Mary Reimann-Perez (healing prayer)

Night Songs: Sunday, February 15 at 7pm

Save the date for another Night Songs performance with our own Hope Choir and other local choirs! Watch for more information and a ticketing link through Eventbrite coming soon.