



**“Heaven is Opened”**  
The Baptism of Our Lord  
January 13, 2019

# **KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH** | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

## **VISIT**

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, there are activity bags for children, and the service is streamed live in the Fireside Room down the hall.

## **WORSHIP**

During the Epiphany season, we see the human Jesus identified as the Son of God. At the Baptism of our Lord on the First Sunday after Epiphany, the Father speaks from heaven claiming Jesus as his Son. The Baptism of Jesus was the beginning of his public ministry, and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon him anointed him to be our substitute and Savior.

- In the Gospel reading, Jesus submitted himself to a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He had no sins of his own, but he took the sins of the world upon himself and began walking the road that would lead to his death in our place.
- Therefore, the Old Testament reading reminds us that God is with us when we pass through the waters. He has created us for his own glory and redeemed us with the blood of his own Son. Surely we are now his own and will live with him in his kingdom.
- The New Testament reading reminds us that we are already empowered through baptism to live the new Christ-like life as God's children. Our baptism links us into the death of Christ, but also to his resurrection. The old sinful nature daily dies and the new Christian nature is resurrected, so that we might walk in newness of life.

## **STUDY TODAY, 1/13 at 9:30 AM**

- "Catechism: The Lord's Supper" with Pastor Ferkenstad
- "A Biblical View of Self-Image" with Pastor Wiechmann
- "Ephesians" with Pastor Ekhoff
- "The Star of Bethlehem" DVD documentary

## **STUDY NEXT WEEK, 1/20 at 9:30 AM**

- "Catechism: The Lord's Supper" with Pastor Ferkenstad
- "A Biblical View of Self-Image" with Pastor Wiechmann
- Reformation History with Pastor Don Moldstad
- "Is Genesis History?" DVD documentary

# THE SERVICE OF THE LUTHERAN CHORALE

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*The Lutheran chorale service began during the Reformation era and took root in those churches where proclaiming the true doctrine of Scripture was of utmost importance. The songs and liturgy in the service proclaim Law & Gospel, tell of our salvation & Christ's victory over death, and they convey the truth of Scripture & are a confession of our faith.*

## OPENING HYMN

*"How Firm a Foundation" | #521 v. 1-4*

## INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when He said: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents, we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving His life on the cross. At our baptism, He clothes us with the robe of His righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

C: **Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

P: As baptized children of God we confess our sins:

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## RESPONSE HYMN

*"How Firm a Foundation" | #521 v. 5*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**ALL:** Loving Father, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit, and revealed him as your dear Son. Thank you for making us your children by water and the Spirit. Keep us

**faithful to you throughout our lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## *The Word*

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### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Isaiah 43:1-7*

But now, this is what the LORD says— he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’ Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

### **EPISTLE READING**

*Romans 6:1-11*

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.**

## **THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **THE SERMON HYMN**

*"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It" | #246*

# **"Heaven is Opened"**

### **SERMON**

*Luke 3:15-22*

**T**HE PEOPLE WERE WAITING EXPECTANTLY AND WERE ALL WONDERING IN their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them. But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison. When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

### **OFFERING**

*The offering is given by the members of King of Grace as a fruit of faith to thank God for how He provides for our earthly needs daily and richly. If you are visiting us today, please do not feel compelled to participate.*

### **OFFERTORY HYMN**

*"We Give Thee But Thine Own" | #445*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P:** As Christ's royal priesthood, let us lift up our voices to the God of all grace, praying on behalf of the Church and for all people everywhere.

**P:** For all people, especially those who belong to the household of faith, that God would protect them from the powers of darkness and the spiritual forces of wickedness, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For the Church throughout the world, that Christ would daily put on us the whole armor of God, causing His truth and righteousness to protect us from the assaults of the devil; and that daily we may remember our baptisms, drowning our sinful nature in repentance, and living according to the newness of life given to us through water and the word, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For all ministers of the Church in every nation of the world (especially those who are suffering for Christ's sake), that they may boldly make known the mystery of the Gospel and be ambassadors for Christ to everyone they meet, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For peace among the nations, for good and wise leaders in our country, for faithful and caring civil servants, for well-prepared and effective teachers in our schools, for new and useful scientific research, and for the development of new and beneficial technologies, that our lives in this world may be peaceable and well-ordered, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For all who are in trouble, for those who lack what they need for bodily life, for the sick, those in peril of death, and all who suffer any other adversity that God would provide comfort in their afflictions and deliverance from every evil, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For the faithful who sleep in Christ and await the resurrection of the dead let us give thanks to our heavenly Father. That He would bring us with them into the joys that await His family on the Day of Christ's final and full Epiphany; let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** Merciful Father, in holy baptism You have called us and given us the words of eternal life. With ears and mouths opened by Your Word may we not worship You in vain, but praise and give thanks to You for everything, in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

## BLESSING

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give ☩ you peace.

**C: Amen! Amen! Amen!**

## CLOSING HYMN

*"He That Believes and Is Baptized" | #241*

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**PRAYER REQUESTS?** Please contact Wanda Warnke at 612-529-1497.

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:** 376 worshiped on Sunday, and 20 worshiped on Monday.

## **OFFERING LAST WEEK**

Average Needed Per Sunday: \$16,154

Average Needed Year to Date: \$452,312

Received Last Week: \$13,369

Received Year to Date: \$513,169

For the calendar year 2018, 10% of our offerings were given to support other ministries. \$59,647 was given to the work of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod and \$29,779 was given to the work of West Lutheran High School. Thank you for your gifts given to King of Grace to support our work and the work of others.

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Altar flowers are placed in the sanctuary today by Pastor and Cindy Ekhoﬀ to celebrate Tim's Heaven Day.

## **ANNUAL WINTER LADIES NIGHT OUT**

The King's Daughters group is sponsoring our annual winter Ladies Night Out on Tuesday, January 22 at 6:00 PM at The Sunshine Factory (4100 Vinewood Ln N, Plymouth). All ladies are invited to join! Please sign up on the bulletin board by the Fireside Room ASAP. Join us, it will be fun! Please contact Phyllis Thomforde at 763-545-0309 with questions or for more information.

## **KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT**

King of Grace Lutheran School will be holding a **Kindergarten Information Night on Tuesday, January 29, at 6:30 PM**, in the Fellowship Hall. The evening will include an overview of our curriculum, time to explore the school and classroom with your child, and an opportunity to ask questions about our Kindergarten program. We will also have Kindergarten registration information available which includes instructions on how to fill out an application and start the enrollment process for your child. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Walz at [awalz@kog-els.org](mailto:awalz@kog-els.org).

## **NEW MEMBER RECEPTION – FEBRUARY 3**

Mark your calendars for our next New Member Reception: Between worship services on Sunday, February 3.

**SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Preacher**.....Rev. Ben Wiechmann | **Liturgist**.....Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ  
**Organist**.....Karen Merseth | **Pianist (Monday)**.....Jenny Merseth

**SERVING IN SUPPORT**

**Counters Today** .....Gerry Reason, Lon Rogness  
**Counters Next Sunday** ..... David & Jennifer Stavig, Derick Primus  
**Usher Captains Today**.....John Vomhof, Sr., John Woodington  
**Usher Captains Next Sunday**..... Tom Studanski, Curtis Merchant  
**Video Team Today** ..... Katherine Guillaume  
**Video Team Next Sunday** ..... Gerry Reason  
**Coffee Setup Next Sunday** ..... King’s Daughters  
**Coffee Clean Up Today**..... Board of Elders  
**Coffee Clean Up Next Sunday**..... School Board  
**January Altar Guild**.....Kathy Reason, Anne Bechtold

**CALENDAR**

*January 13 – January 20*

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<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:15 AM	Worship Service
	9:30 AM	Bible Study/Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service
<b>MONDAY</b>	6:30 PM	Worship Service
	6:30 PM	Church Council
<b>TUESDAY</b>	9:30 AM	Women’s Bible Study
	6:30 PM	Pioneers
	7:00 PM	Board of Youth
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	4:00 PM	Grades 7 & 8 Confirmation
<b>THURSDAY</b>	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:30 AM	Chapel Service
<b>SATURDAY</b>	8:30 AM	Men’s Bible Study
	9:00 AM	Sports Memorabilia & Card Show
<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:15 AM	Communion Service
	9:30 AM	Bible Study/Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Communion Service

Scan this QR code for the link to our KOG Church Calendar:

