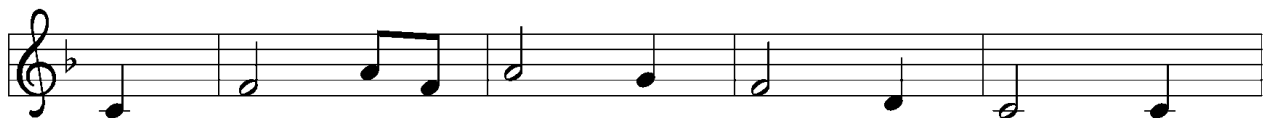


**REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Serving Absecon - Galloway Township**  
**Rev. Heidi Link – Pastor**  
**Brian Conover - Music Director**

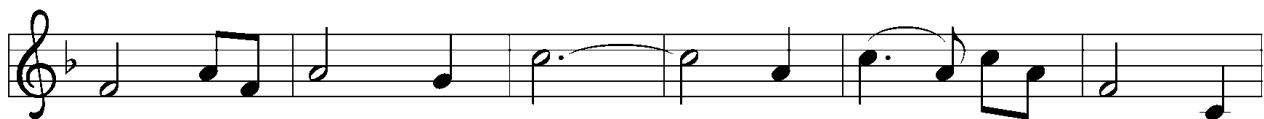
**Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD / 8:30 & 10:00 AM**

**\* OPENING SONG**

**Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound**



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

**\* GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

\* - Congregation Stands (If for any reason you are unable to stand during the service, please remain seated.)

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.**

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who creates us, redeems us, calls us by name. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.**

Rejoice in this good news: In ✠ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **Amen**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7** (*for text of reading, see back of bulletin*)

### **RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 29**

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

<sup>9</sup>**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!"**

<sup>10</sup>The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

<sup>11</sup>**O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.**

**SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17** (for text of reading, see back of bulletin)

\* **HYMN OF PRAISE.**

### Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
Son robed of in God flow'rs and of Son of bloom - ing Man!  
spring;  
Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
light of my soul, he makes our sor - rowing my joy, my crown.  
spir - it sing.

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904  
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

\* **THE WORD OF GOD: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

(for text of reading, see back of bulletin)

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

### For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For your - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly giv'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
a - gent of God's grand de - sign, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:



Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.  
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

### \* APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**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. Amen**

## \* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*A brief silence.*

By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need (*especially*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace (*especially*). Comfort us in grief and release us from fear. God of grace,

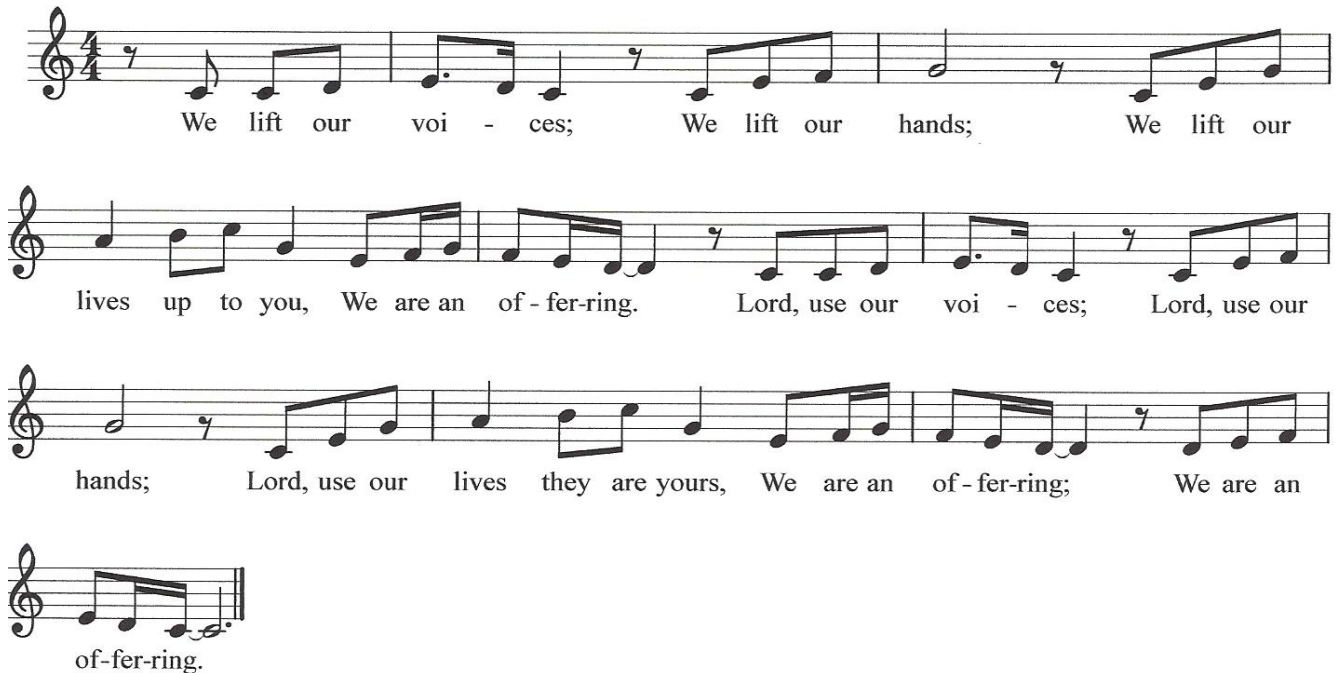
**hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## OFFERING

### \* OFFERING SONG



We lift our voi - ces; We lift our hands; We lift our  
lives up to you, We are an of - fer-ring. Lord, use our voi - ces; Lord, use our  
hands; Lord, use our lives they are yours, We are an of - fer-ring; We are an  
of - fer-ring.

### \* OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. **Amen.**

### \* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### \* THE 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

Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.  
**We come.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

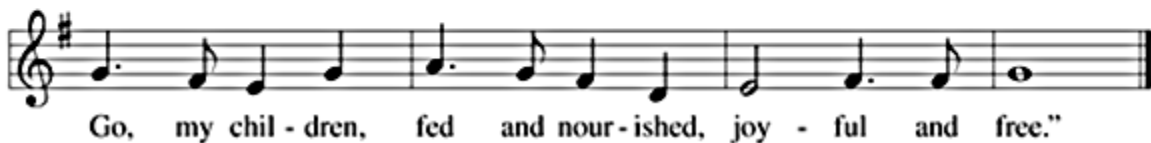
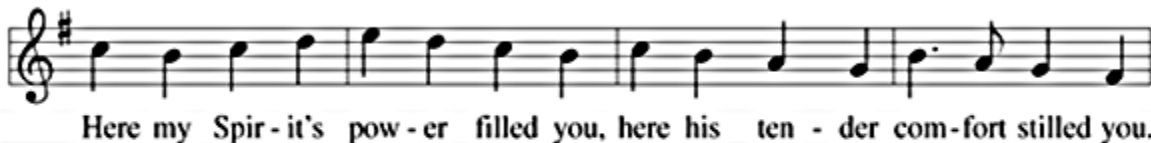
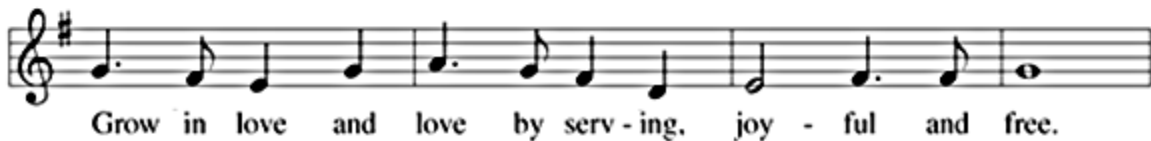
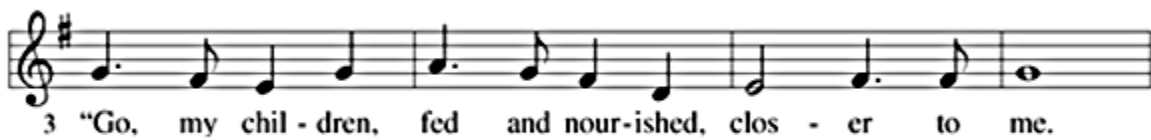
*(BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe that the risen Christ is present in the Eucharist to forgive sin and renew life are invited to either come to the altar area for communion as directed or share at your pew. If you come forward, you will receive bread and a pre-filled cup of wine. If you choose to receive at your seat, please remain there, kneel as you are able, and receive the elements using the communion packets available from the ushers. If there are other special needs, please speak to an usher.)*

### \* POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen**

### \* POST COMMUNION HYMN

#### Go, My Children, with My Blessing



### \* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray: We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### \* BLESSING

And now a blessing: God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever. **Amen.**

## \* CLOSING SONG

### Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.  
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.  
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.  
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.  
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.  
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561; tr. hymnal version  
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman  
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

## \* SENDING

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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