

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

Sunday, January 15th, 2023
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY / 10:00 AM

*** THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

We give you thanks, holy and gracious God, for you created the waters of the earth: wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, mighty rivers. (*Here particular bodies or sources of water may be named.*)

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you. Your Son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us. You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. Through this water remind us of the gift of baptism. Renew us in your promise so that we may serve this world in all its need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*** OPENING SONG**

How Marvelous God's Greatness



1 How mar - vel - ous God's great - ness, how glo - ri - ous God's might!
2 Each ti - ny flow'r-et whis - pers the great life - giv - er's name;
3 The o - cean's vast a - byss - es in one grand psalm re - cord
4 The star - ry hosts are sing - ing through all the light - strewn sky



To this the world bears wit - ness in won - ders day and night:
the might - y moun - tain mass - es his maj - es - ty pro - claim;
the deep mys - ter - ious coun - sels and mer - cies of the Lord;
of God's ma - jes - tic tem - ple and pal - ace courts on high;

... song continues...

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



in form of flow'r and snow - flake, in morn's re - splen - dent birth,
the val - leys deep are hymn - ing God's shel - ter for his own;
the ic - y waves of win - ter are thun - d'ring on the strand;
when in these out - er cham - bers such glo - ry gilds the night,



in af - ter - glow at eve - ning, in sky and sea and earth.
the snow-capped peaks are point - ing to God's al - might - y throne.
and grief's chill stream is guid - ed by God's all - gra - cious hand.
oh, what tran - scen - dent bright - ness is God's e - ter - nal light!

Text: Valdimar Briem, 1848–1930; tr. Charles V. Pilcher, 1879–1961, alt.
Music: DEN BLOMSTERID NU KOMMER, *Koralpsalmboken*, Stockholm, 1697
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

* 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.

Let us pray: Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7 (*see back of bulletin for text*)

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 40:1-11

¹I waited patiently upon the LORD,
who stooped to me and heard my cry.

²**The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

³The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.

⁴**Happy are they who trust in the LORD!**

They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

⁵Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you!

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

⁶**Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;**

you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.

⁷And so I said, "Here I am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸**‘I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep within me.’**”

⁹I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.

¹⁰**I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your
faithfulness and your deliverance;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.**

¹¹You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (see back of bulletin for text)

*** HYMN OF PRAISE**

I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



1 I’m so glad I’m so glad
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I’m so glad Je - sus lift - ed me,
Sa - tan had me bound, When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

*** THE WORD OF GOD: John 1:29-42**

A reading from the Gospel of John:
(see back of bulletin for text)

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Here I Am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

*** 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**

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

A brief silence.

Put a new song in the mouth of your church. Inspire the baptized to tell of your faithfulness, sharing the good news of your salvation throughout the earth. Bless the witness of missionaries (*synodical mission starts and missionaries supported by the congregation may be named*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

The waters of baptism call us into life in the Spirit. Preserve the world's waters: protect them from pollution, support plants and animals who depend on them, and bring rain in places of drought. Guide us in protecting local waterways (*especially*) and in responding to devastating floods. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

In Jesus you are the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Show your mercy to all nations. Direct leaders to do your will; fill governing bodies with righteousness; equip judges with discernment and compassion. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You incline your ear to all who cry to you. Draw near to individuals and communities suffering violence, injustice, illness, or poverty. Hide them in the shadow of your hand and make us signs of your faithfulness to all in need (*We pray especially for . . .*).

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You are glorified in the servants you have called. With Martin Luther King Jr., give us bold trust in you. Even when it feels like a sharp sword or polished arrow, give us courage to receive your call to repentance and racial justice. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In every place and time, you have sanctified your people. We praise you for the testimony of those who have died in the faith. Strengthen us as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

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

Amen.

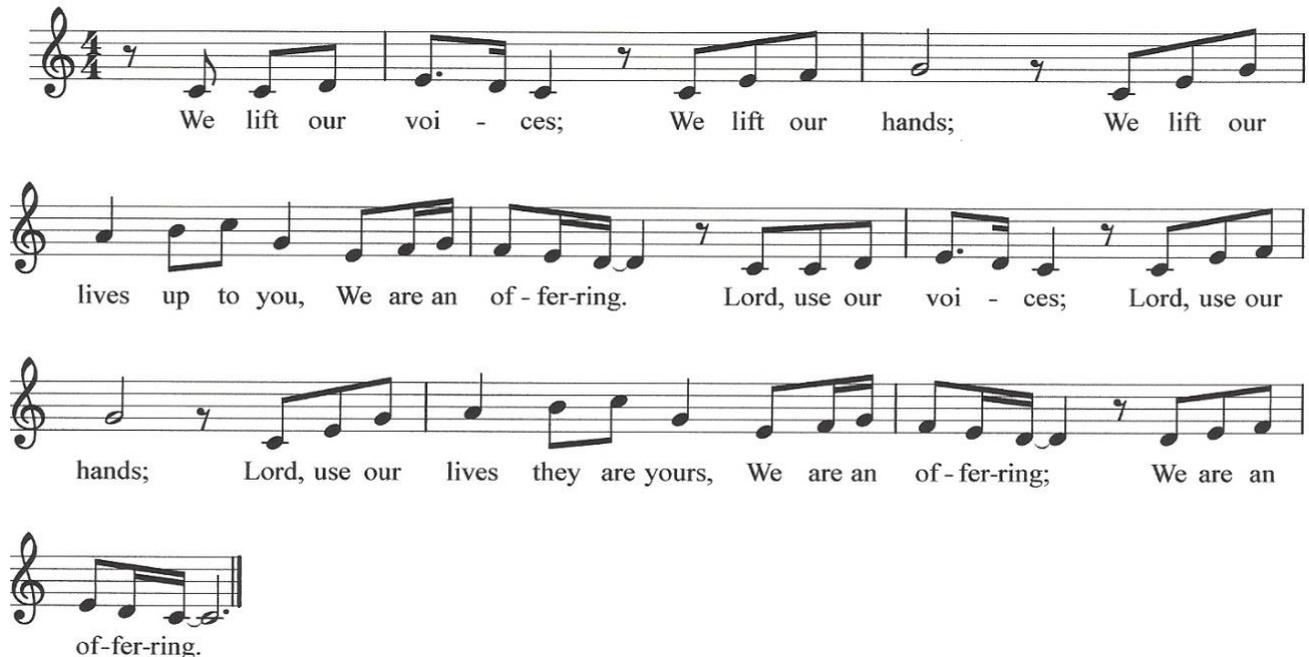
*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING / SPECIAL MUSIC

*** OFFERING SONG - "WE ARE AN OFFERING"**



The musical notation is written on four staves in 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 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: 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 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 him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary...*(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

* 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 and taste the joy of God!

We come.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

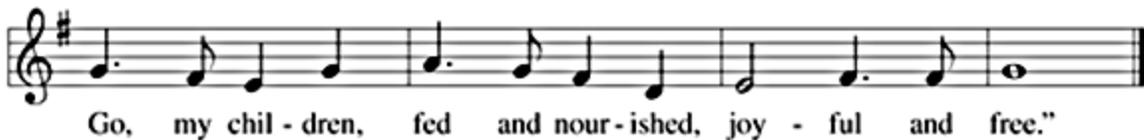
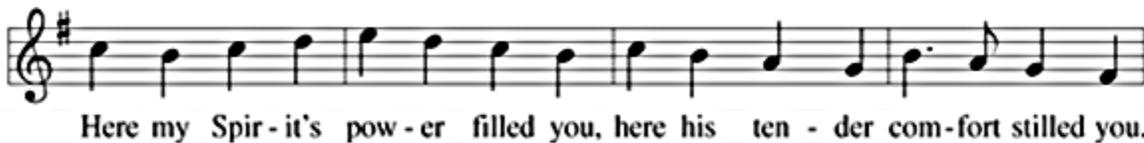
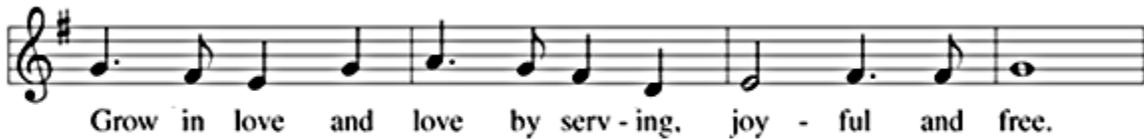
(BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe that the risen Christ is present in the Eucharist to forgive sin and renew life are invited to either come to the altar area for communion as directed or share at your pew. If you come forward, you will receive bread and a pre-filled cup of wine. If you choose to receive 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: 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**

And now a blessing: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✝ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

*** CLOSING SONG**

Arise, Your Light Has Come!



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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*** SENDING**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

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