

THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED

MATTHEW 3:17





St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville
5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road
Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937
574-8028 or email: stjoh1875@g mail.com

January 11, 2026
THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

PRELUDE

Leader: People of St. John, what is our purpose?

All: To live for the Lord who made us, to love as Jesus taught us, and to serve where the Spirit leads us.

+ THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

C Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

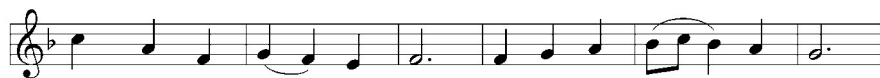
Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

P: We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG *God, Whose Almighty Word*

#400



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
 2 Lord, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
 heal - ing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the
 speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
 wis - dom, love, might! Bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray,
 in - ly blind: oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light!
 lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place
 full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide,

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P Come, let all of God's people gather this day for worship!

C **For we were once lost and without hope until the Lord redeemed us.**

P Even when we were yet in our sin Christ died that we might have life.

C **We have salvation only through the mercy and grace of our Lord.**

P Then let our hearts proclaim God's redeeming love for all nations to hear.

C **Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his
 tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Seward, b. 1932

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

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+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Let us pray. . . O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children will be dismissed to Children's Church following the Children's Sermon

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

¹ 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.
² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;
³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
⁵ 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:
⁶ 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,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

PSALM: 29

P ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
C ² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
P ³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
C ⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

- P ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- C ⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- P ⁷ The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- C ⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- P ⁹ 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!”
- C ¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
- P ¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ 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. ³⁹ 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, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ 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. ⁴² 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. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

+ ALLELUIA VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

+ GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

Pastor Francis

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su - preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint-ing soul;
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
 and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;
 man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill;
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,

an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
 an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
 an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885

Music: SALZBURG: Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702, adapt.

+ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Let us pray.

P As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

P Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs (*local water sources may be named*). Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill (*especially*). Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P "Raise up and send to us our next pastor (deacon). We pray for our call committee, that your wisdom will rest upon them, that they may know and recognize the person you are sending. Grant us patience and faith as we wait. Amen"

"We pray for the our call committee as they continue their work, that they may know your will, and have the faith and courage to follow your leading."

"Grant that your Holy Spirit may rest upon our call committee as they listen for your will. Grant us patience and hope that comes by faith in you." Hear us, O God

C receive our prayer.

P Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C Amen.

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. (*2 Corinthians 13:11*)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

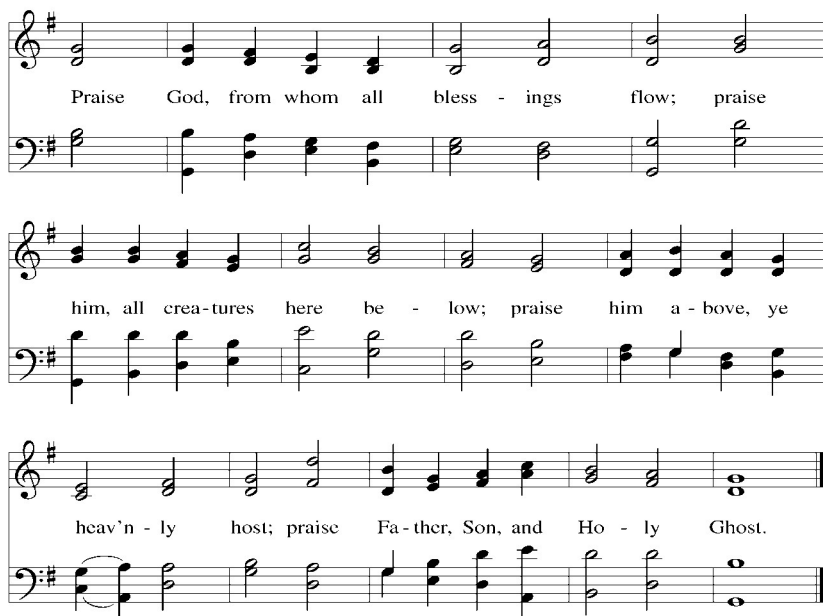
The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:

Peace be with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDT, Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–1561

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

SENDING SONG *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*
Please use your Green LBW Hymnal for hymn #423.

#423

+ Dismissal

P	Go in peace.
Children	Serve the Lord.
C	Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+Stand as you are able

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SERVING TODAY

Organists	Leigh Ann Henry
Lay Reader	Dené DeGonzague
Prayer Leader	Ophelia Hatfield
Greeter	Ophelia Hatfrild
Altar Committee	Debbie Clevenger, Cindy Oakes
Council President	Rick Williams

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN CHURCH. We are pleased you are here. Visitors, please sign the guest book at the entrance and be sure to return again soon

LET US PRAY FOR: Dale Ramey, Emily Smith, Peggy Butler, Roberta Sommer, Rosemarie Becker, Patricia Cavendish, Jim Skipworth, Galen Gleim, Paul Means, Grace Mootz, Marcella Mootz, Kay Staker, Kimberly Tolliver, Danica Clarkson, Bill Murphy, Frank Dodd, Linda Martin, Rena McIntyre, Bill Culver, Melaine Hawk, Patty Poole, Kent Gifford, Nicholas Young, Jason Pierce, Beth Miller, Jane Staker, Joanne Oakes, Vivian Riffel, Donnie Hixon, Rod Schneider, The Congregation of the Mountain Church in Asmushausen, Germany, the members of our armed forces, and those we hold privately in our hearts.

PLEASE PRAY FOR the Call Committee and Church Council as we search for a new pastor. May God bless and guide them in this journey.

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is today Sunday, January 11 immediately after worship. Reports will be received and elections for Church Council will be held, along with a few other items of business.

CONFIRMATION CLASS for 7th and 8th graders is the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. The next class is Sunday, January 11 and January 25 at 9:00 a.m. We will meet downstairs in the library Sunday School room.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPS AND STATEMENTS are in the annex.

This Week at St. John

Today—*The Baptism of Our Lord*

9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

10:00 a.m. **Worship**

11:00 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting

Next Sunday *Second Sunday after Epiphany*

10:00 a.m. **Worship**—*Holy Communion—Installation of Council*

11:00 a.m. Council Meeting

Attendance

2026 Average: 90

2025 Average 62

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

Organist

Assisting the Ministry

Lay Reader

Prayer Leader

Greeter

Altar Committee

Council President

Leigh Ann Henry

Vivian Hatfield

Sherry Mullins

James Hayman

Jim Gleim

Debbie Clevenger, Cindy Oakes

Rick Williams

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS: Carl Staker, Cole Long, Sherry Mullins, Blake Smith, Tom Bussler

BAPTISMS: Drew DeGonzague, Brian Ramey

ANNIVERSARIES: Jim & Brenda Gleim

IF WE MISSED ANYONE please let Vicki Bradley know so we can add you to the list.

Below is the ballot for the 2025 church council.

Elder	Trustee	Deacon
Brian Oakes	Jim Gleim	Kelly Skipworth
	Rusty Gleim	Vicki Titus
	Daniel Mullins	Rick Williams

Vote for one Elder, one Trustee, and two Decon.

Coming Events

Sunday, January 11 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Sunday, January 11 at 11:00 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 18 during worship Installation of Church Council Members

Sunday, January 18 at 11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Sunday, January 25 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Sunday, February 8 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Sunday, February 15 at 11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 22 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Sunday, March 8 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Sunday, March 15 at 11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Sunday, March 22 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Sunday, January 11

**Annual Congregational Meeting
Immediately following worship.**

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m.

