

Hollywood Lutheran Church

Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday, January 11, 2026



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.



Welcome To Worship

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to offer God's Word of Love, Grace, Mercy, and Justice to our homes, congregation, city, and all creation.

Welcome

We are delighted that you have joined us today. Take a deep breath, center yourself, meditate, sing, and participate at your own pace. Let the congregation and this bulletin guide you, and follow along as you can. Join us after the service for refreshments. We look forward to meeting you. **Mask: If you aren't feeling well, please wear a mask. With a little effort from everyone, we stay safe and healthy.**

Visitor

We invite you to complete the attendance card located in the pew. You may also include prayer requests, concerns, and any other information you would like the church to be aware of. If you are interested in meeting with a pastor, learning more about our community, or becoming a member, please make a note on the card.

The rainbow candelabra located on the altar serves as a reminder of this community's inclusive and intentional welcome to the **LGBTQ+** community.

Our congregation uses the paschal candle at the sanctuary's entrance as the welcoming light of Jesus Christ. It has traditionally been utilized as a light to the world.

Join us after the service for refreshments in Hoick Hall. We look forward to meeting you.

In Today's Liturgy

Minister: Rev. Toni Castañeda Carrera

Assistant Minister: Bill Richardson

Lector: Karla Richardson

Organist: Michael Anderson

Cantor: Phyllis Lundine

Plants and Flowers are given to the glory of God.

PRELUDE

Michael Andersom

The congregation is invited to stand as they can or feel comfortable.

Welcome, This Morning Worship Service Begins With
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

Music

If you don't know a song, sing along as best you can, and don't worry about getting it right—just praise.

Children are Welcomed Here

Children enrich our worship experience. The sounds of crying, laughing, and talking are welcome in our church; these sounds are a true gift, reminding us of God's presence. Children may find crayons and coloring sheets helpful during worship; they can be found in our narthex.

Holy Communion

The congregation will celebrate Holy Communion this morning. All are welcome. Wine, grape juice, and gluten-free bread are offered at the table.

GATHERING SONG

Shall We Gather at the River (ELW 423)



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv - er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

GREETING

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.

CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the [†] Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the [†] Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.
The congregation is invited to be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

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.

PSALM: Psalm 29

Refrain: The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. **R**

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
 the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. R

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
 the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. R

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!"
The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.
O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. **R**

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

A reading from Acts.

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family became the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

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.

SERMON

Rev. Toni Castañeda Carrera

HYMN OF THE DAY

Brightest and Best of the Stars (ELW 303)

1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,

dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Shall we bring in - cense and of - frings di - vine.
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.

Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorm - ing,
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorm - ing,

guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

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.

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, receive our prayer.

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation.

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

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, **receive our prayer.**

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.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

For what else shall we pray for today?

We invite prayers from the congregation to be shared.

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. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

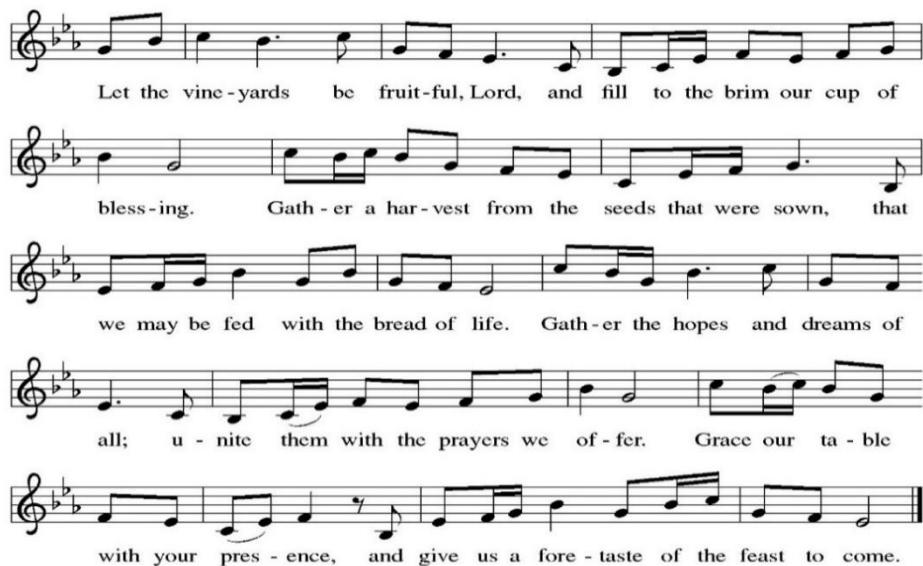
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation is invited to be seated.

Special Music by Michael Anderson
The usher will now pass the offering plate.

OFFERING



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

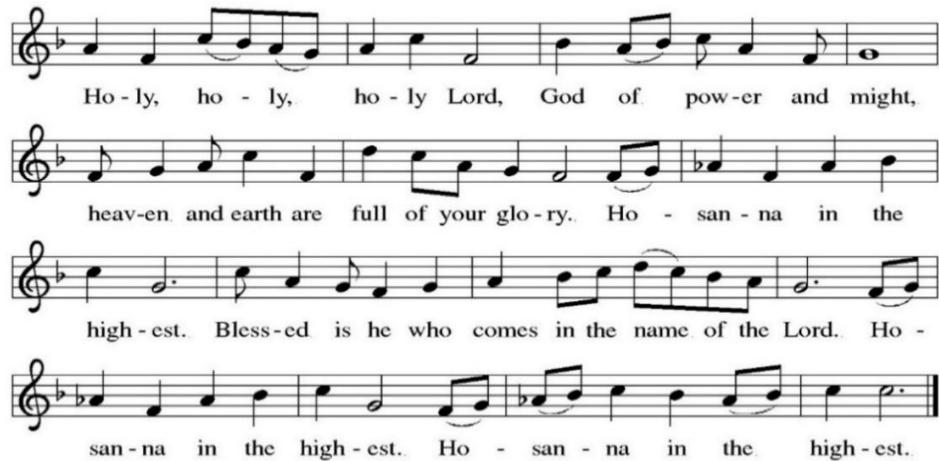
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to or feel comfortable.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**

"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are they who are called to His table."

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to or feel comfortable.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING & SENDING FORTH

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace  bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Sent Forth by God's Blessing (ELW 547)

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will leave - face -

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach-ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.



Please offer your prayers throughout the week for the following individuals:

Special Prayer:

God of peace give leaders of nations the wisdom to choose peace over war and dialogue over conflict. For all families being separated. Comfort those who are fearful and caught in the middle.

Healing:

David Conrad, Scott Aries, Amara Olivera, Jeffrey Forbar, Roy Mariano

Wholeness and well-being:

Adelina, Deborah An Monahan, Thomas Richardson

Trust in your mercy:

Tamara Olivera & Alonzo Perez De Arre, Zakaria, Karin Garcia, Arvik Rostamians

Strength and healing in fighting cancers:

Barbara "B" Wilke, Anna Harris, Ashlyn, Jennifer Yates, Jaha Blackwell, Debra Lande

Hopefulness and strength:

The Martinez family, Ted & Kerman Family, The Terry family

For all military people who are deployed or serving.

Memorial Candles are lit in memory of:

Walter V. Martinez, Will Terry, Elizabeth Kerman

If anyone wants to add or re-add a name, please email or call our office.

hlchurch.office@gmail.com (323)667-1212

Names typically remain on our list for a month, or they're removed before by request.

The rainbow candelabra located on the altar serves as a reminder of this community's inclusive and intentional welcome to the LGBTQ+ community.

Our congregation uses the paschal candle at the sanctuary's entrance as the welcoming light of Jesus Christ. It has traditionally been utilized as a light to the world.



We are a Southwest California Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation in America.

Email: hlchurch.office@gmail.com Phone: (323)667-1212

Website: www.hollywoodlutheranchurch.net

Upcoming Calendar

Food Pantry Delivery Mondays 8:00 am

Food Pantry Distribution Wednesdays 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Let All Things Now Living

1. Let all things now living a song of thanks-giv-ing to
 2. God rules all the forc-es: the stars in their cours-es and
 God the cre-a-tor tri-um-phant-ly raise,
 sun in its or-bit o-be-dient-ly shine;
 who fash-ioned and made us, pro-tect-ed and stayed us, who
 the hills and the moun-tains, the riv-ers and foun-tains, the
 still guides us on to the end of our days.
 deeps of the o-cean pro-claim God our di-vine.
 God's ban-ners are o'er us, God's light goes be-
 We too should be voic-ing our love and be-
 fore us, a pil-lar of fire shin-ing forth in the night,
 joic-ing; with glad ad-o-ra-tion a song let us raise
 till shad-ows have van-ished and dark-ness is ban-ished, as
 till all things now liv-ing u-nite in thanks-giv-ing: "To
 for-ward we trav-el from light in-to light,
 God in the high-est, ho-san-na and praise!"