

**January 12, 2025 The Baptism of Jesus**  
**Pastor Tom Olson; Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church**

**PRELUDE:** Rebekah Olson

**CALL TO WORSHIP: From Psalm 29**

**PASTOR:** Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones,

**ALL:** Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**PASTOR:** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

**ALL:** Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

**PASTOR:** The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;

**ALL:** The LORD is enthroned as King forever.

**PASTOR:** The LORD gives strength to his people;

**ALL:** The LORD blesses his people with peace.

**HYMN #177 “Beautiful Savior”**

**CONFESSION OF SIN: Psalm 51:8-13** Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. Amen

**CHILDREN’S SERMON:**

**READER: Carol Hoikkala**

**EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 6:1-11** What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 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. 5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6 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- 7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:15-22** The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. 16 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. 17 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." 18 And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them. 19 But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, 20 Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison. 21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened 22 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."

**READER: Here ends the reading of God’s Word.**

**CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where 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*

**GLORIA PATRI: Ambassador Hymnal p. 4 (please put on screen)** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER**

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP: Chosen by Luke Johnson**

**SERMON: “THE BENEFITS OF LIVING CLOSE TO GOD,”**  
**Isaiah 43:1-7 Pastor Tom Olson** *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

## **I. PROTECTION: GOD PROVIDES IT**

*Isaiah 43:1-2 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.  
2 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.*

## **II. REDEMPTION: CHRIST PURCHASED IT**

*Isaiah 43:3-4 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.  
4 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.*

## **III. PRESERVATION: GOD WILL ACCOMPLISH IT**

*Isaiah 43:5-7 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--  
7 everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."*

*May the peace of God guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen*

**HYMN #546 “Now I Belong to Jesus”**

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

*Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him  
all creatures here below, Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men. A-men. A---men.*

Postlude: Rebekah Olson