



Saint Michael's Lutheran Church



Epiphany Sunday Baptism of Our Lord

ELW setting 3

January 11, 2026

10:00 a.m.

** Please stand.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Alexander Dmitriev

Es ist ein Ros, a 16th century melody

* INVOCATION


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.

OPENING HYMN # 423 SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER




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.

Refrain



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.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

LESSON

Acts 10:34-43

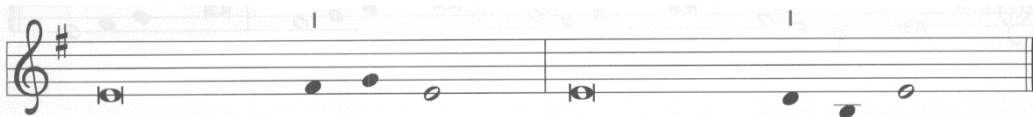
Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of 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.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

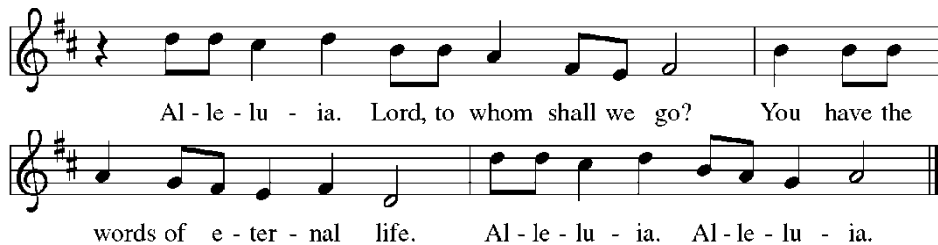
Psalm 29

Sing responsively



- ¹ Ascribe to the ¹ LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- ¹ ry and strength.
- ² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory ¹ due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness.**
- ³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of ¹ glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the ¹ mighty waters.
- ⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a pow- ¹ erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a ¹ voice of splendor. R**
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the ¹ cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- ¹ dars of Lebanon;
- ⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip ¹ like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a ¹ young wild ox.**
- ⁷ The voice ¹ of the LORD
bursts forth in ¹ lightning flashes.
- ⁸ **The voice of the LORD ¹ shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- ¹ ness of Kadesh. R**
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the ¹ forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are ¹ crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned a- ¹ bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- ¹ evermore.**
- ¹¹ O LORD, give strength ¹ to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- ¹ ings of peace. R

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mark A. Grorud

HYMN #303 BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF THE STARS

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 - f'rings 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 - dorn - 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 - dorn - 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.

APOSTLE'S 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 THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayers ends with one of these responses:

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

(The prayers conclude:)

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bless we the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

* PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Choral Anthem

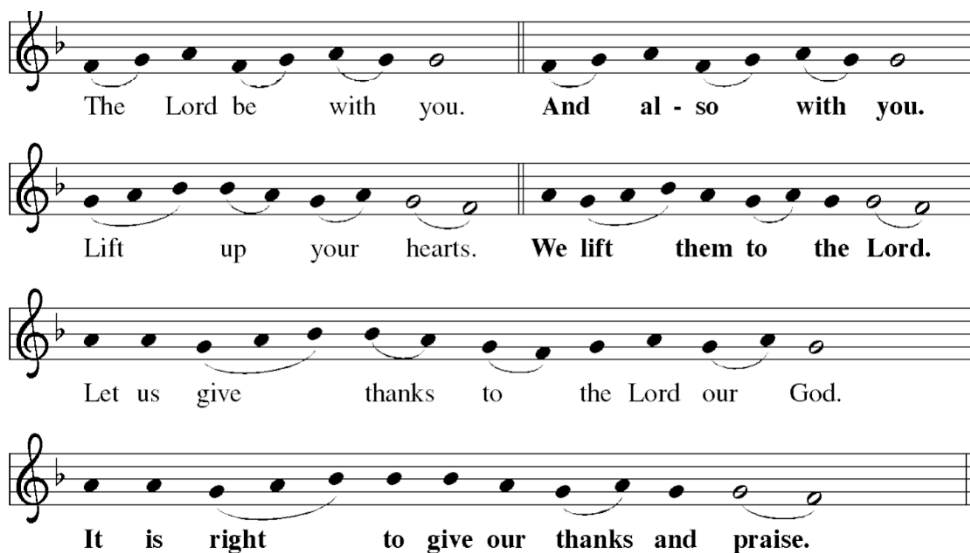
A New Year Carol

Benjamin Britten

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

* PREFACE DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

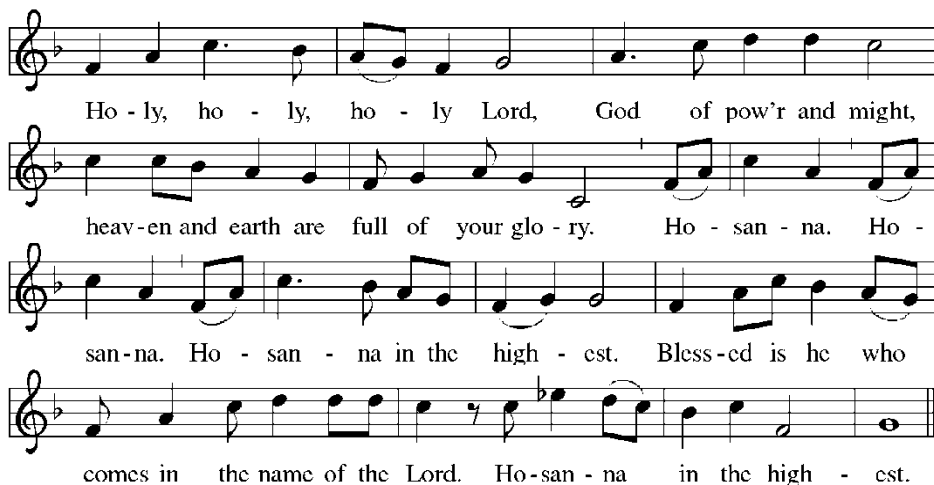
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

* PREFACE FOR SEASON OF EPIPHANY

* **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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

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.

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:

God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table.

LAMB OF GOD

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.

Please bring your offering with you as you come forward to receive Holy Communion. Communion distribution is by intinction. The communion bread or gluten-free wafer will be placed in your hand. Take the bread or wafer and dip it into the chalice of wine. Do not have your fingers touch the wine

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

P 471

Let us break bread together on our knees,
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun.

O Lord, have mercy on me.
Let us drink wine together on our knees,
Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees,
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

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

LET US PRAY.

* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen**

SENDING

* BLESSING

May God who comes among us,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

* HYMN #310

SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE



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 weak-ened bod - y, 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,

*** DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Heaven & Earth

Belarusian-Ukrainian Christmas Carol

Setting by Alla Borzova

Program Note

Heaven and Earth is a Belarusian/Ukrainian Christmas carol (*kalyada*). The text of the carol talks about Chris's birth and the celebration of that birth by angels in heaven and by people and magi on earth. After the theme, several variations follow. In the first variation, the theme's beginning appears in imitation. In the second (Lullaby), a flute solo introduces the theme in its inversion. In the third variation (Angels), the right hand plays the theme in reverse. In the fourth variation (magi), the theme gains an Eastern flavor and appears with an oboe registration against a flute accompaniment in the pedals. The final variation starts *mezzo piano* and develops into *fortissimo*, with the last appearance of the theme in pedals. -Alla Borzova

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IN OUR PRAYERS

Prayer Request books can be found at each entryway. Requests written in the Prayer books will be included in today's prayers; someone is added to the Prayer List by a note to Pastor or the church office, and will run for **four consecutive Sundays**. Requests may be renewed.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING are offered for all those celebrating birthdays this week.

CARE AND HEALING: Harold (Hap) Albrecht, Heather Bakios, Stephen Bakios, Ken Bielemeier, Joe Boehm, Shari Bruner, Robert Carpenter, Angela Castillo, Rosanna Dumbus, Althea Ericsson, Eric Ericsson, Phil Evensen, Jill Ferenc, Michael Guhl, April Gurciullo, Rita Hausdorff, Scott Kempton, Jack Koch, Mark Kramm, Riley Johansen, Liam Ledbetter-Dunn, Pam Lowell, Baylor (Boomer) Manchuck, Claire Miethke, Richard Miller Jr., Judy Mirczak, Ann Moores, Jim Moores, Benton Morse, Doris Ann Peter, Joey Peter, Jan and Harv Weitzel, Jen Wolfe, Charles Yost.

MISSION PARTNERS: in the Gulf States, Martin Luther Church, (ELCA) Mobile, Alabama, and our NEW ENGLAND SYNOD PARTNERS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Palestine and the Holy Land, and the Lutheran church in Honduras

SERVING TODAY

Greeter	Agneta Aspinwall
Assisting Minister	Roger Heine
Reader	Norma Gerwig
Altar Guild	Diana VanDam
Cookies & Conversations	Diana VanDam
Counters	Melba Grieshaber, Ingrid Hollinger
Interim Pastor	Pastor Mark Grorud
Organist	Dr. Alla Borzova

SERVING NEXT WEEK

Greeter	Ken D'Arinzo
Assisting Minister	Kyle Runestad
Reader	Ken D'Arinzo
Altar Guild	Laura White
Cookies & Conversations	Agneta Aspinwall
Counters	Melba Grieshaber, Roger Heine
Interim Pastor	Pastor Mark Grorud
Organist	Dr. Alla Borzova

Indoor Worship Protocol

We are still careful of one another's health in the post Covid time and encourage you to keep following safe protocols.

Pastor Mark Grorud, Interim Pastor
Church Office (203) 966-3913
Nancy Rowe, Admin (203) 966-3913
Alla Borzova, Director of Music
Ken D'Arinzo, Council President
Website (Stephen Galyas; webmaster)

mgrorud@gmail.com
saintmichaelsoffice@gmail.com
saintmichaelsoffice@gmail.com
music@StMichaelsLutheran.org
president@StMichaelsLutheran.org

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH WEEKLY NEWS

January 11 - January 17

ONLINE? KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING...

Please use **#stmichaelsnewcanaan** as your hashtag on social media during the week. **"Like"** our Facebook Page: St. Michael's Lutheran Church, New Canaan, CT.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: Please use the offering envelopes in the pew rack if you make a cash donation, and write your name on the front of the envelope. This allows us to ensure we are keeping track of members' cash contributions placed in the offering plate without their numbered envelope.

COMMUNION CARDS: To remain on the active member voting list you must submit at least one communion card per year and one financial contribution per year. If you have not filled out a communion card yet this year, please do so soon. They are located in the pew card holder and you can just drop it in the offering plate on your way up to communion.

FLOWER AND ETERNAL LIGHT CHARTS

Thank you for helping to beautify the church for worship! The next available dates to sign up are for the month of January.

DEADLINE FOR WEDNESDAY'S CONSTANT CONTACT EMAIL

The deadline for submissions for the weekly constant contact email is Tuesday at 9:00 AM. Any submissions received after the deadline will appear in the following week's CC email.

25 IN ATTENDANCE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

This Week: January 11 - January 17

Sunday, January 11

9:00 am & 11:15 am Choir Practice

9:00 am Confirmation Class

11:00 am Cookies & Conversation - Help take down the Christmas decorations

Thursday, January 15

OWLS - Noon: Guest Speaker Daniel DeLoma - Waveny LifeCare Network

Next Sunday, January 18

9:00 am & 11:15 am Choir Practice

9:00 am Confirmation Class

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Cookies & Conversation

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

For pastoral services, Pastor Grorud can be reached at (402) 620-8032 or via his new email address **mgorud@gmail.com**. He is in the church office Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Need access to the church? Please plan on coming during office hours: Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

New Canaan Historical Society:

Normal hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. They are closed on Sundays and Mondays. If you need access to the sanctuary on Saturdays, please let Nancy know and she will confirm with the historical society to ensure someone will be available to let you in.

THE ANNUAL MEETING



Our Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 22**, following worship.