

WORSHIP SERVICE

JANUARY 17, 2020

GATHERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 116)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (ELW p. 119)

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

Amen.

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.

Mark your forehead with the cross with water.

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.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Crashing Waters at Creation* (ELW 455)

Words

Crashing Waters at Creation

1 Crashing waters at creation,
ordered by the Spirit's breath,
first to witness day's beginning
from the brightness of night's death:

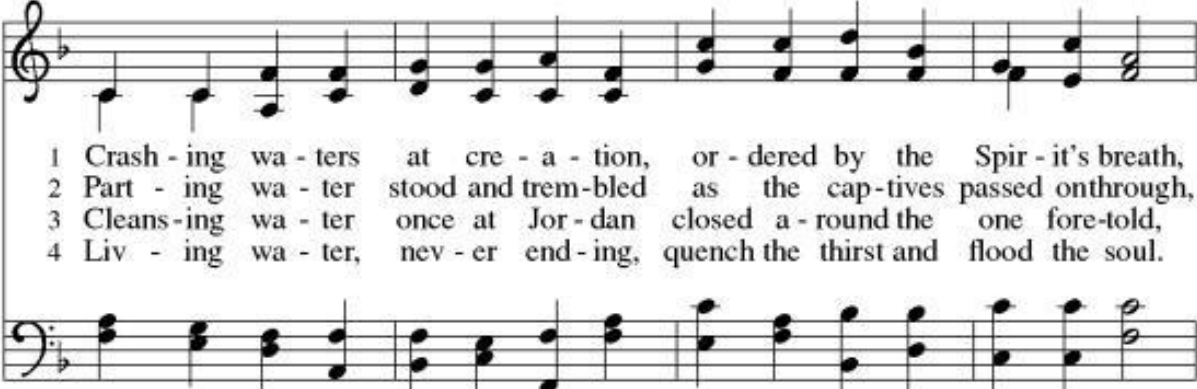
2 Parting water stood and trembled
as the captives passed on through,
washing off the chains of bondage--
channel to a life made new.

3 Cleansing water once at Jordan
closed around the one foretold,
opened to reveal the glory
ever new and ever old.

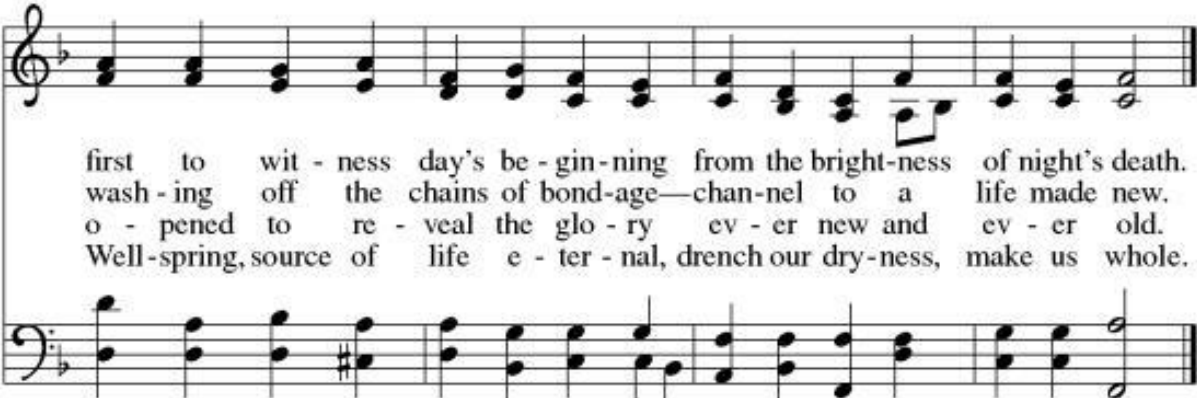
4 Living water, never ending,

quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Wellspring, source of life eternal,
drench our dryness, make us whole.

Crashing Waters at Creation



1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,
2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,
3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,
4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.
wash - ing off the chains of bond - age—chan - nel to a life made new.
o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.
Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876
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GREETING (ELW p. 120)

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 124)

Let us pray.

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5

A reading from Genesis.

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

1In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. (*Ps. 29:3*)

1Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

**4The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

5The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**6the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

7The voice of the Lord
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

8The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

9The 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!"

10**The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;**

the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.

11O Lord, give strength to your people;

give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

A reading from Acts.

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

1While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. 2He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." 4Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." 5On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—7altogether there were about twelve of them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 124)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

4John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (ELW p. 125)

"Yearly reminder: there is no resolution that, if kept, will make you more worthy of love. You, as your actual self and not as some made up ideal, are already worthy."

This quote from Pr. Nadia Bolz-Weber is one of my favorites and a good reminder. I often make resolutions. This year my resolution was just to survive the pandemic... in every sense of the world, both figuratively and literally. Some years I keep my resolutions to this point in the year. Most times, not so much. And, I do think resolutions can help us take stock in our lives and better use our time, talents and resources... including guarding our health and well-being.

But, sometimes, our ability to meet our goals and the goals others have for us can start to determine our sense of worth and purpose.

Today, we start our year together remembering Jesus' baptism. In remembering His baptism, we remember the gift of our baptism. We remember that God daily says to us, too, "You are my son...my daughter... with whom I am well pleased." Not because everything we do is pleasing, but because God loves us, renews us, forgives us and claims us. And because of *that* we are pleasing in God's sight- because we are God's beloved children.

That is a good way to start this year, especially in this trying time, together. Remembering who and whose we are.

I know I've shared this before but Bishop Anderson told this story from his earlier pastoring days. He decided to work on his ability to swim. It was something he could do but wanted to improve. As it would turn out, one of the youth from his church happened to be the lifeguard of

the pool where he was trying to work on his swimming. He painstakingly swam some laps before stopping and asking something to the effect of, "Is there any way I can make this any easier?" He asked. The lifeguard paused and said, "Well, you should remember your body floats." The bishop noted this advice was, in fact, helpful.

This story has come to mind lately for me. Often, when in stressful times, I tend to double down, try harder and be more resolved. I think that if I just prepare more, be more assertive or less assertive depending on the instance, be clearer, or whatever else... things will be better. Sometimes it works. But, also, I have learned that sometimes the best thing I can do is remember that I float in the waters of my baptism. I float in the grace that God gives me. Knowing that, instead of struggling and fighting, sometimes makes it easier- just like floating instead of fighting makes swimming easier.

Everything feels like a battle these days doesn't it? More to do? Always someone who disagrees or is angry? Hard to know that the right thing is to do and when the end of the pandemic will ever be.

This week I'm going to try to float a bit. Rest in the waters of my baptism. Trust that even when I'm not fighting, God is up to good in the world. I invite you to do the same.

Baptism of our Lord is also the type of celebration that is really hard to hear at this time, too. Because just as we are God's beloved children... the people who we disagree with, who tear us apart, who aren't supportive of us and who are doing things we vehemently don't agree with... They are God's beloved children. They are loved, chosen, saved and forgiven in the waters of their baptism.

So even as we speak out against injustices in the world. Even as we voice our opinions for what we believe is right. Even as we stand up for our own dignity and respect, we remember that the saying is true, "You will never look into the eyes of someone that God does not love." As we remember our baptisms, we remember the baptism of those around us.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us float in the waters of our baptism together.

HYMN OF THE DAY Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons (ELW 798)

Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

1 "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?"

2 "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?"

3 "Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?"

4 "Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"

5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

CREED (ELW p. 126)

**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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Lord, we pray for our schools and administrators as they continue to try to increase their capacity for in person learning. Keep people safe. Give people endurance.

Have mercy, O God.

We pray for those who are sick with Covid or any other illness. Give them health. We pray for those who care for those who are sick. Give them endurance. Be with those who are administering and receiving the vaccine.

Have mercy, O God.

For the nations of the world and their leaders, for laborers busy both day and night, and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their strength wisely. We pray for the upcoming inauguration. We pray for peace and healing amongst people. Help our nation to unite in love, care and service to each other, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the sick and those who provide medical care, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for all who suffer. We especially remember....

Members: Todd Hallstrom, Ron Almjeld, Linda Towne, Charlene Wachter, Bob Dieter, Mary Kraft, Marilyn Frisch, Julie & Denny Christensen, Dianne Sanderson, Betty Nelson

Members in Nursing Homes: Bobbie Elvin, Gene Wachter, Sandra Marsh

Members in Care Facilities: Joan Doeden, Jean Bender

Family Members & Friends: Lois Gruis, Josh Hansen (Mary Ingenthron's son), Lee Morrison (Terry Morrison's son), Henrietta Lais, Tom Morgan (Sandy Randall's dad), Peggy Konold (Norma Radenbaugh's daughter), Brad Martens (Valerie Veen's son)

Our service men and women and Love INC.

We ask that God shower them with compassion, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Lord, we prepare for our church as we return to in person worship next week. Keep us safe. Guide our plans. Bless our praise.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING AND CGC MOMENT

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 129)

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 129)

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 (ELW p. 130)

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.
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
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 (ELW p. 130)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 130)

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 (ELW p. 134)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 (ELW p. 134)

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 134)

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 136)

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION (ELW p. 136)

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care:

As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,
assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament
with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*.

In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament,
and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence
through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING (ELW p. 136)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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

Amen.

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,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
 Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

SENDING SONG *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* (ELW 310)

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
 Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 manifested by the star
 to the sages from afar,
 branch of royal David's stem
 in thy birth at Bethlehem:
 anthems be to thee addressed,
 God in flesh made manifest.

2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
prophet, priest, and king supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in pow'r divine,
changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

3 Manifest in making whole
weakened body, fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill:
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee now
and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee
at thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in flesh made manifest.

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 137)

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.