



St. Matthew LUTHERAN CHURCH

Where the welcome is wide and the love is real.

Welcome! Whether you are a long-time member of St. Matthew, a first-time visitor, or somewhere in between, we are thankful you are here today. If you have questions or need visual, audio, or mobility accommodations, please let a name-tagged usher know. We're excited about the many ministries of St. Matt's, and we hope you'll find a way to plug in that makes sense for you!

Our Purpose:

Welcoming all as we share God's love.

Our Core Values:

Celebrating together in worship

Deepening our faith in Jesus

Engaging children and youth

Walking with our neighbors

Embracing one another as God created us

About today: We gather as a community for worship around word, wine, and water. Put another way, in worship we meet Christ in scripture proclaimed in speech & song, in the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism celebrated or remembered, and in community gathered together.

Our regular weekend schedule includes Saturday worship at 5 p.m., Sunday indoor worship at 8:30 a.m., and Sunday indoor worship at 10:30 a.m. (livestreamed).



Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

Baptism of Our Lord January 12, 2025

PRELUDE Shall We Gather at the River Carter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

our Creator, our protector, Our wellspring of life.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Trusting that God receives our words and the mediation of our

hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

Pastor: Merciful God,

All: you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for the ways we act

with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.

We ignore the needs of our neighbors.

We resist your call to oppose injustice.

We assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults, and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

Pastor: God proclaims these words of assurance:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine."

In Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God.

All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River

ELW423 Lowry



- 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.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the

communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

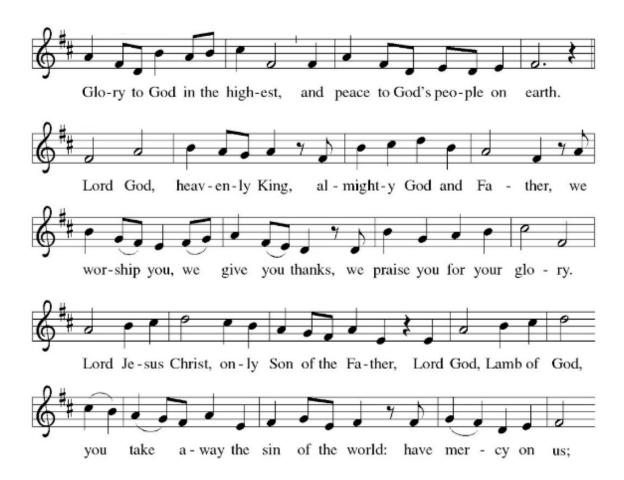
(10:30) HOLY BAPTISM

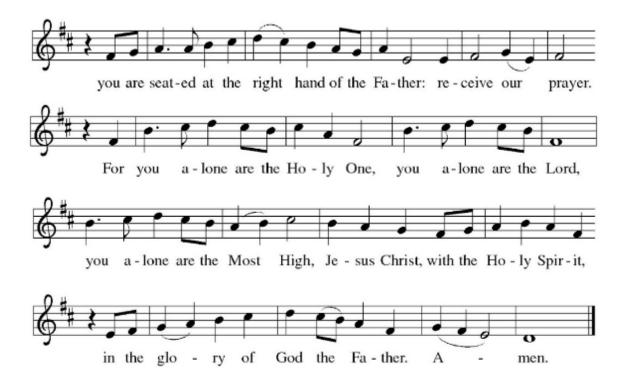
At certain points during the service of Holy Baptism, the congregation will be invited to respond following the Pastor's prompts.

Pastor: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome Myla into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in our mission by welcoming all as we share God's love.

HYMN OF PRAISE





(10:30) Please be seated

(10:30) After the singing of the Hymn of Praise, Children second grade and under are invited to meet our children's leader at the baptismal font at the front of the Nave. She will take the children for Children's Church at the "Pray-ground" in the Fellowship Hall. They will hear a Bible story from this week's lectionary in an age-appropriate format and spend some time exploring their faith and creativity together. They will return during the passing of the peace.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

十 THE WORD 十

THE READING: Isaiah 43:1-7 Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29 (Read Responsively)

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glo ry and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- ³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶ the 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.
- ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 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!"
- ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.
- ¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 35-17, 21-22 The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

THE MESSAGE

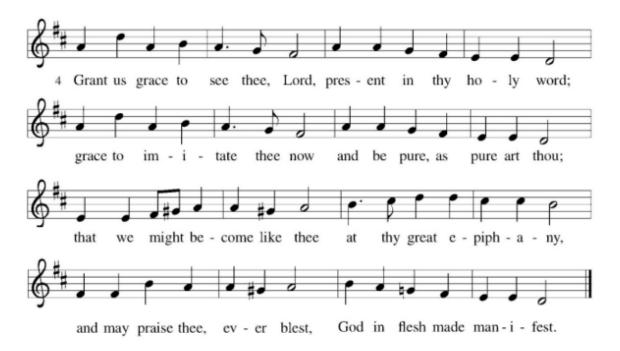
Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman

GOSPEL RESPONSE

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise
Verse 4

ELW#310 Wordsworth, Hintze

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Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

Assist. Min: Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

All: 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

Assist. Min: Each petition concludes, "God of Grace," and the congregation responds, "hear our prayer."

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

(The congregation is invited to greet one another with the words "Peace be with you," and gestures respecting personal space and comfort levels.)

(10:30) Children return from Children's Church.

MUSICAL OFFERING

How Can I Keep from Singing
Brenna Hursh, Vocalist

Lowry/Fedak

GENEROSITY MOMENT

We celebrate God's generosity embodied in this community's time, talents and treasures shared with one another. **Thank you for your presence** in worship today. **Thank you for offering** the "first fruits" of your finances. Offerings may be placed in the baskets near the entrances/exits of the worship space or through online giving on our website. **Thank you for sharing** your spiritual gifts with our church, local, and global communities

Please stand as you are able.





Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. 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





with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assist. Min: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,

All: And your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,

Now and always. Amen.

中 THE MEAL 中

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(10:30) Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: 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

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to the Lord's Supper. The meal is served in three ways. Choose what is appropriate for you.

Individual packets are available for those wishing to remain in their pew.

If you are unable to come forward, but would like communion served by the pastor, please let one of the ushers know and the Sacrament will be brought to you at your seat.

Continuous manner – Come forward at the direction of the ushers, take the wafer from the pastor, "The body of Christ, given for you", and eat it. (Gluten-free wafers are available) Then move to the next station and take one of the cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) "The blood of Christ, shed for you", and drink it.

Children who do not yet receive communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

IN-PEW COMMUNION (WITH PACKETS)

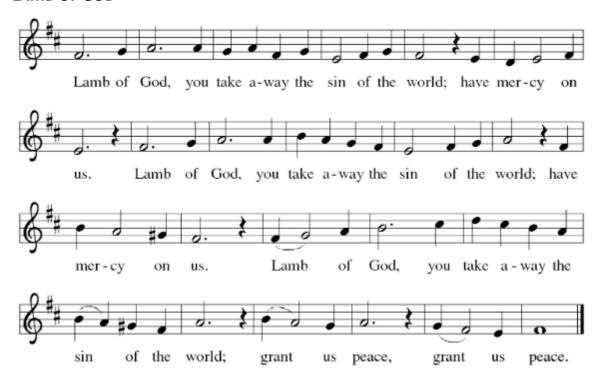
Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

All: Amen. (Eat wafer)

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

All: Amen. (Drink wine)

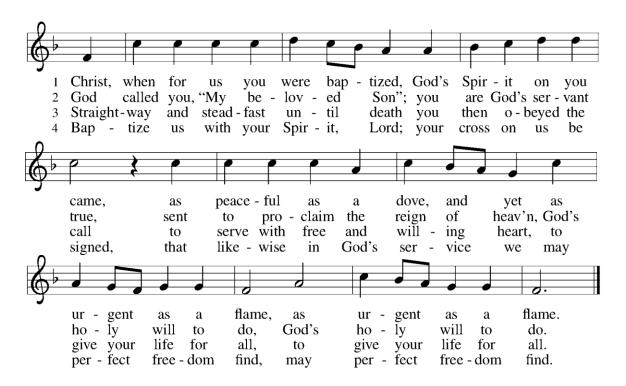
LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized ELW#304

Tucker/Herman

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Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you

and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assist. Min: Nourishing God,

at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.

Strengthen us for service,

and send us out to embody your good news

of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.

In the name of Christ we pray,

All: Amen.

BLESSING

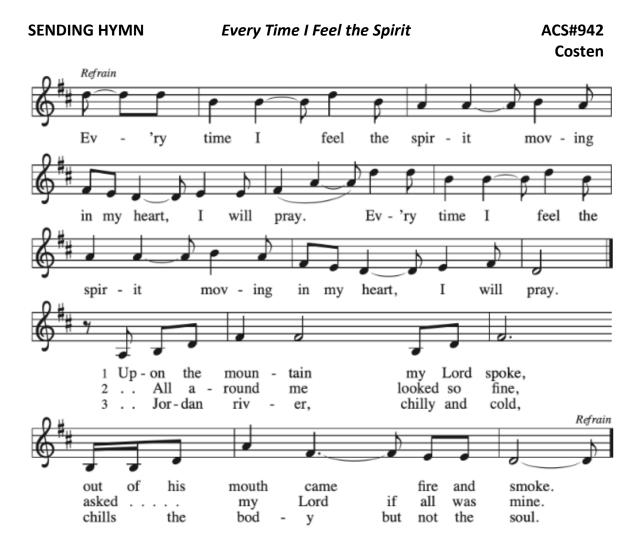
Pastor: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you with joy,

anoint you with compassion,

and send you in love.

All: Amen.



DISMISSAL:

Assist. Min: Go in peace. Live in hope.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Postludium Young

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Please note: Music for this service is covered under CCLI # 1000682 –
Also #A-708989 One License.net



RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM on Saturday evening, January 11, is Zelda Lynn Witt, daughter of Zachary and Jamie (Sheeler) Witt with sponsors Alexis and Caitlin Sheppard-Witt. We welcome Zelda into the earthly body of Christ with membership here at St. Matthew Lutheran Church.



RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM on Sunday morning is Myla Rose Burkentine, daughter of Bryan and Cooper (McGarvey) Burkentine with sponsors Kaitlin and Bryce Burkentine and Emily and Michael Burkentine. We welcome Myla into the earthly body of Christ with membership here at St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

Our warm thanks to all those assisting in our worship services this morning:

Musicians	8:30 Brenna Hursh
	10:30 Brenna Hursh
Alter Flower Delivery	Pam Cashman
Altar Guild	Beth Koontz, Janice Peck
Assisting Minister	8:30 Linda Wheeler, 10:30 Aaron Smith
Children's Church Leader	Melissa Smith
Communion Assistants	8:30 Darlene Klenk, Amy Beck

	10:30 Sue & Phil Covert	
Communion Preparers	8:30 Erika Kovacevic, Bonnie Williams	
	10:30 Christine & David Myers	
Couriers	8:30 Darlene Klenk, Amy Beck	
	10:30 Sue Covert, Ellen Shenk	
Greeters	8:30 Steve & Penny Rutters	
	10:30 Leo & JoAnne Hilbert	
Lector	8:30 Karen Sowers, 10:30 Jonathan	
Live Stream	Lexi	
Ushers 8:30 Team 1 – Tom Shultz, Bob & Kit Curlen, Sean Huston, John Mancini		
Elijah Fisher,	Aaron Smith, Addyson Trostle, Landen Zinneman	
Welcome Place	Shelley Zumbrum	

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Donald Krug by his granddaughter Tami Feeser; in loving memory of Jere Dubs by the family; in loving memory of my daughter M. Sue (Cover) Nicks who passed away January 12, 2020 and my son Robert W. Cover who passed away January 4, 2022 by their mother Loretta and family.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my daughter M. Sue (Cover) Nicks who passed away January 12, 2020 and my son Robert W. Cover who passed away January 4, 2022 by their mother Loretta and family; in loving memory of Ralph W. Snyder by Tom, Laurel, Nicholas and Paige Bell.

RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS for the week beginning January 12:

Sunday: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Thursday: Acts 8:18-24

Monday: Ephesians 6:10-17 Friday: 1 Corinthians 7:1-7

Tuesday: 1 John 5:13-21 Saturday: Luke 11:14-23

Wednesday: Luke 1:33-36

PRAYER LIST: In our intercessory prayers we pray for individuals who have offered permission to have their names included. These names will be listed up to a month unless otherwise requested. After that time, prayers will continue for each person through our prayer chain. Newly added names will appear in bold. If you would like to be included in the prayers of the prayer chain **but not listed** in the bulletin, you may contact Beth Koontz at bethk9245@gmail.com or by calling the church office at 717-637-7101.

Faye Snyder	Dan Weigle	Laurel Bell
Ardis Family	Mike Cromer	Tom Bell
Robert Mosely	Bill Schlitzer	Nancy Leister
Diana Altand	Kent Woods	Harold Kepler
Gladys Despines		

DEATHS: George Zinn

Our Pastor Faye will be having surgery on Wednesday,
January 15. We ask that you keep her in your prayers for a full recovery.

Pastor Faye will be unable to minister to members during her convalescence, through the end of February. If anyone is in need of pastoral care, please call the church office, 717-637-7101, and Pastor Kathy or Pastor Alex will be available. Thank you for your understanding.

IN RESPONSE TO THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES: AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE

St. Matthew received an invitation from Lutheran world Relief to be one of five congregations who would each commit to giving \$5,000 each for a total of \$25,000 as matching funds. Would you like to be a part of this initiative to respond directly to the people impacted by the wildfires in California? Checks may be written to St. Matthew and earmarked CA. Wildfires. Donations are also received online by going to the website and choosing LWR-Wildfires. Loose offerings will also be used for our California neighbors in need.

ST. MATTHEW SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

St. Matthew is offering an exciting opportunity for young adults by offering two paid internship positions. During this 9 week internship, the interns will:



- Gain leadership skills in a variety of ministries
- Enhance the summer ministries of St. Matthew
- Increase our Community Outreach with children, youth and young adults
- Grow in Faith and Service

High school graduates with at least one year of college are invited to apply for these paid summer internships and must be a member of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover PA. Job descriptions and application forms are available by contacting Tim Peck, St. Matthew Youth Ministry and Community Outreach Leader at youth@stmattlutheran.org or 717-637-7101 ext. 230 or Pastor Alex at pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org or 717-637-7101 ext. 229. Application deadline is Monday, February 24, 2025.

TO ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS: ANNUAL REPORTS are due in the church office by Monday, January 29. Remember that this is a historical document and we like to have a clear report of the past year at St. Matthew and our activities. If you have email access, please email your report to info@stmattlutheran.org. If you do not have e-mail access, we would appreciate if you could have the report typewritten. If you need a copy of your committee's report from last year or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stacy, ext. 223, or Jane, ext. 226, in the Church Office, 717-637-7101. Thank you for your time!

WINTERFEST

It was a terrific weekend to talk about the theme "Fingerprints" at the High School Youth Winterfest. We had 15 people in total – 8 high school youth, 5 young adults, and 2 advisors. We looked at how we make our "mark" and show the world Christ's forgiveness, love, and grace. For a preview of the weekend, check out the display cases by the elevator.



Mailing Address

You Are Welcome in our GriefShare Group.

- Be with other people who are grieving.
- You can say exactly how you feel to others who understand your pain.

Our 13-session GriefShare support group is scheduled to begin **Monday**, **February 17**, **2025 6:30-8 p.m.** St. Matthew in the Upper Room, located on the 2nd floor. The room can be reached by elevator or stairs from the glass doors on Franklin Street.

To register, call the church office, 717-637-7101. If you have questions, you may email Pastor Faye at nicksong@comcast.net or call her at 717-451-0851. **Phone Number** Name E-mail SIGN-UP FORM Please fill out the pertinent part(s) for you, tear off this page and put in the offering basket or email the church office at info@stmattlutheran.org, listing what you are signing up for and the information requested. See Announcements Page for more details. I'd like to receive ______e-mail updates and/or _____ newsletter in the mail. (Provide name, e-mail, and/or mailing address) I am a member of St. Matthew and below is updated contact information. Phone Number Name E-mail

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

www.StMattLutheran.org
30 W. Chestnut St, Hanover, PA 17331
717-637-7101
General Mailbox: 221
info@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor, ext. 231 pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Alex Sheppard-Witt, Associate Pastor, ext. 229 pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor, ext. 225 nicksong@comcast.net

Benjamin Boellner, Minister of Music, ext. 235 bboellner@stmattlutheran.org

Deb Smith, Associate Minister of Music, ext. 236 dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, ext. 230, youth@stmattlutheran.org,

Melissa Smith, Children and Family Ministry Coordinator, ext. 232 msmith@stmattlutheran.org

Hannah Chiacchierini, Communications Administrator hannahc@stmattlutheran.org







@StMattHanover



FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will
be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not
overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;

⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Psalm 29

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I