Centering Music: Welcome

Call to Worship (Psalm 29)
Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God’s name!
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 bursts forth in lightening flashes.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness.
The Lord sits enthroned above the flood.
O Lord, give strength to your people;
Give us, O Lord, the blessings of peace!

Thanksgiving for Baptism
Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,
holly and merciful,
holly and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.
Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. 
Empower our witness to your resurrection. 
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. 
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. 
Where despair prevails, grant hope. 
Where chaos reigns, bring peace. 
We ask this through Christ, 
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. 
Amen.

**Gathering Hymn: Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters ELW 445**

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

1. Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
2. We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
3. Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!

Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!

Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.

Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart’s delight.
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Re-create us, God, transform!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: BEACH SPRING, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844
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**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.

**Prayer of the Day**
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
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.
In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2 the 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. 3 Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God 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!

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
And let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
Alleluia!
Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:4-11
4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And 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. 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He 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. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”
9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And 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. 11 And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”
The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

Message
Hymn of the Day: Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized ELW 304

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

Confession of Faith
Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.

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 we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.
A brief silence.

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering especially those we name before you now… God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God’s care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ

Amen.

Peace
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering
AGLC gives in the style of our Tanzanian partners. You may place any gift in the basket as you come forward for communion. If you don’t have a physical gift to share, you are encouraged to dip your hand in the basket as a reminder that God uses you to do God’s work in the world.
Offering Prayer
Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

Holy Communion
Thanksgiving
Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace. From before the earth’s foundation, you loved us and promised us new life. Within the earth’s deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious compassion. Despite our tears and brokenness, we sing of the gladness of your mercy.
We praise your shining light!
We praise your shining light!

We praise your Son, our Morning Star. Christ is our diamond bright, our treasure dear. He is our living Savior who has redeemed us in love. He keeps us in your care and fails us never.
We praise the Morning Star!
We praise the Morning Star!

We call for your Spirit to come upon us and this meal. Refresh our souls with this heavenly food, the body and blood of you Son. Nourish us as branches of your tree, and enlighten us with your undying flame.
Nourish us, O God!
Nourish us, O God!

Jesus’ Invitation

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Lord’s Prayer
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
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.

Call to the Table
Amazing Grace Lutheran Church practices open communion. All are welcome. No exceptions. Please feel welcome to stop by our prayer station to light a candle after receiving communion.

At Jesus’ table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come, taste and see the glory of the Lord.

**Distribution**
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*The wine used in worship is alcohol-free. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.*

**Communion Song(s): Lamb of God (Setting 3)**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

**Shall We Gather at the River**

Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
2 On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
4 Soon we’ll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrim-age will cease;

with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?  
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.  
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.  
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.

*Refrain*

Yes, we’ll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Crashing Waters at Creation

1. Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the Spirit’s breath,
   Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through,
   Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the one fore-told,
   Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul.

2. First to witness day’s beginning from the brightness of night’s death,
   Washing off the chains of bondage—a channel to a life made new.
   Well-spring, source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.

This is the Spirit’s Entry Now

1. This is the Spirit’s entry now: the water and the word,
   This mirror of life re-born comes from the Lord of breath;
   Let water be the sacred sign that we must die each day
   Re-new-ing Spirit, hear our praise for your baptismal pow’r

2. The cross of Jesus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
   The sin-less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
   To rise again by his design as followers of his way,
   That wash-es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a-gain this hour.

Prayer after Communion

Giver of every gift,
Christ’s body is our food, and we are Christ’s body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.
Amen.
Announcements

Benediction
God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
☩ bless you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Sending Hymn: Wade in the Water  ELW 459

Wade in the Water

Refrain

All

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,

wade in the water, God’s a-goin’-a trouble the water.

Leader

All

1 See that host all dressed in white,
2 See that band all dressed in red,
3 Look o-ver yon-der, what do I see?
4 If you don’t be-lieve I’ve been re-deemed,

the leader looks like the Is-ra’-lite,
the Holy Ghost a-com-ing on me,
just fol-low me down to... Jordan’s stream,

All

Refrain

God’s a-goin’-a trouble the water.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: WADE IN THE WATER, African American spiritual

Dismissal
Go in peace. You are God’s beloved!
Thanks be to God!

Postlude: