

Church of the Divine Love

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 11, 2026 10:15 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

A Morning Prayer

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn (see hymn board for all hymns)

Opening Acclamation page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect for 1Epiphany/Baptism of our Lord page 214

First Lesson: **Isaiah 42:1-9** (*pages 622 in the Bible*)

Psalm 29 page 620

Second Lesson: **Acts 10:34-43** (*page 837*)

Gradual Hymn

Gospel: **Matthew 3:13-17** (*page 836*)

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Confession page 393

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer A	page 361
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People - All baptized Christians, regardless age, are welcome to receive Communion.	
Communion Hymn	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace	page 815
Prayer for the Parish	page 817
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday January 11, 2026

Isaiah 42: 1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3: 13-17.

Beloved in Christ, “Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.”

That is more than John expected. “I need to be baptized by you,” John says to Jesus. It’s one thing for Jesus to show up but it’s another for him to show up wanting to be baptized. It’s one thing for Jesus to show up in power. It’s another for him to come just like all the others and to stand amidst the crowd and wait his turn to be baptized. So, what about all that time preaching in the wilderness? Did John really understand what he was saying? I don’t think John had any idea just how near the kingdom would come to him. He had no idea that power would be found in humility, submission, and immersing one’s life in the life of another. He had no idea that he would be baptizing Jesus. He thought it would be, that it should be, just the other way around.

I speak from experience when I say that John had no idea. It’s less a judgment and criticism, and more a

recognition and resemblance. There have been times in my life when I had no idea how close the kingdom of heaven had come to me. I suspect you can recall times like that as well. They are times when we just didn't see it or recognize it for what it was. We had no idea that God would show up in that way, that place, that time, that situation. We look back now and realize what we missed. John's question echoes in our head, "And do you come to me? "I imagine each of us has known moments in life when it felt as if we had no choice but to muscle our way through. Power was the only way. The power to overcome, to defeat, to push aside. It was "do or die" as they say. So, we hammered ourselves into shape. We got by on sheer will power. There was no one to help, or so it seemed. It was up to us. Anything else looked and sounded like weakness. It never crossed our mind that there might be another way. We had no clue that one more powerful than us would really show up and redefine what power means.

I wonder how many times we have said no to God simply because we had no idea. It was not a matter of disobedience, rejection, or unfaithfulness. We just had no idea that God's ways are not our ways and God's thoughts are not our thoughts. We thought we understood and had it figured out. We thought our ways and our thoughts were God's and left no room for God to surprise us. Who can blame John? How could he or we expect the Creator to be baptized by the created, that the Creator would give his sandals to the one who is unworthy to carry them? And yet, that is exactly what Jesus does. "And do you come to me?" That's not just John's question. It's also ours. At some point or another we've all asked it. Sometimes it just seems too incredible to believe that God would come to us. Maybe it's because we see God as distant, cold, and uninvolved. Maybe it's because we see ourselves as unworthy and undeserving. Maybe it's because we were taught that God is more concerned about our behavior than our life. Maybe the pain, difficulty, and losses of our life have caused us to wonder whether God even cares. Maybe God's ways don't fit within our expectations. God won't fit within our box and we can't seem to get out of it. I don't know when or how that question comes up for you but I know where we find the answer.

The answer is found in the baptism of Jesus. His baptism answers once and for all the question, "And do you come to me?" Yes, absolutely. That is Jesus' answer to John, to you, to me, to everyone. There is no one to whom Jesus does not come. That answer, however, is not without consequences. Jesus' baptism sets before us a choice. We can either prevent or consent, closing or opening ourselves, to the baptism of Jesus. The issue is not Jesus' coming to us. The issue is our preventing or consenting to his coming. Our work then is to always move from preventing to consenting. That is our repentance just as it was for John. According to Matthew, John "would have prevented him." John would have stepped in front of Jesus, stopping and denying Jesus' baptism. That's a pretty scary thought. It's pretty frightening that we have the freedom and ability to prevent Jesus' baptism. To prevent Jesus' baptism means that we withhold ourselves from the God who comes. It means we deny God's desire and longing for humanity expressed in the life of Jesus. It means we deprive God of the unique and irreplaceable love that he seeks in each one of us. In the end it means we deprive God of the life God wants to live and the life he wants to give to us.

Jesus' baptism is more than his immersion in the water of the Jordan River. It is his immersion into all of creation, into the depths of humanity, and into your life and my life. This is the baptism of Jesus to which John consented. John moved from preventing to consenting. That movement, that consent, is the fulfillment of all righteousness. It puts life and relationships back together again. It joins earth to heaven and humanity to divinity. That consent is how we offer the waters of our life to Jesus. Over and over again Jesus returns to the waters of his baptism immersing himself into the struggles and triumphs, the joys and the tragedies, and the deaths and resurrections of our world and our lives. He immerses himself in the wilderness of struggles, divided hearts, and temptations. He immerses himself in the compassion that recognizes the dignity of every human being. He immerses himself in the intimacy and love of a woman's perfumed ointment, her touch, her hair, her tears. He immerses himself in the betrayal of Judas' kiss. He immerses himself in the loneliness and rejection of Peter's denial. He immerses himself in the pain of the soldiers' blows, whips, and taunts. He immerses himself in the shame and humility of the cross. He immerses himself in the tomb and darkness of death.

There is no part of your life or my life devoid of Jesus' baptism. He immerses himself completely. He sanctifies our life's waters. He assumes all that we are and takes on our life. He immerses himself into our life that we might be raised up into his. For every immersion there is a raising up. When Jesus came up from the water the heavens opened to him, the Spirit descended upon him, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased." With Christ's immersion into our life the heavens are opened to us. With his immersion into our life the Spirit descends upon us as well. With his immersion into our life, we are also God's beloved children, sons and daughters, every one of us.

"And do you come to me?" Yes, Jesus comes to us. He always has and always will. He can do nothing less. He is the God who comes. Consent to his coming. Offer the waters of your life. Let them be his baptismal water. Prevent nothing. Don't withhold even one drop. Let every word, every action, every choice, every relationship be the place of his immersion and you're raising up. It is the fulfillment of all righteousness. So, come to the water again and remember who you are. **Amen.**

1 EPIPHANY/THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS		
MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING
TUESDAY	6:00 PM	BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP

2 EPIPHANY

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

ANNUAL MEETING - JANUARY 25th

Vestry nomination-Erika Febres - 2nd term as Junior Warden

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Roe Prosser	Deb Giordano
Coffee Hour	Jess Berbeck	Dana Kenn

SUPPORT THE FOOD BANK, DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Barbara Curran	Betty Curley	Martin
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Joseph
Chris Dickson	John Roccoo	Donny
John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Bobby
Scottie Credendino	Michael	Ryan
Sister Eddie	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Beverly Noel	Phil Ryder	Warren
Anthony Paribello	Jonathan	Jay

Donna Amundsen	Kate Jones	Jan
Timothy Treasure	Vincent & Barbara	Sandy
Mary & Family	Wendy	Aika
Gladys Hadija	Sophia	Aidan
Michael & Family	Donna A	Mo
Michelle & Family	Christopher	Annie
Moises Parra	Misael Varas	

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster.

The homeless and food insecure.

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.

Bring us, with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen.

To add or make changes to the prayer list during the week,

email Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

Morning Prayer:

Heavenly Father, Thank You For allowing us to see a brand -new day.

For this, we give You Praise! Lord, we lift up our concerns, worries, and burdens before You, knowing that You are with us in every step of the way.

Fill us with Your peace that surpasses all understanding, calming our hearts and reassuring us of Your unfailing presence.

Deliver us from the evil one and keep us safe from all harm, known and unknown. In the precious name of Jesus. Amen

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father, I adore you, Lay my life before you, How I love you.

(repeat twice with 2nd verse starting with Jesus, and 3rd verse starting with Spirit)

