

4th Sunday after Pentecost July 6, 2025

Pre-Service Music

Noah Davis

Welcome and Announcements

Kathy Loviska, Liturgist

Opening Sentences

Liturgist: Holy Triune God, author of community,

All: come baptize us.

Remind us what it means to belong to one another.

Liturgist: God who tears the heavens, come baptize us.

All: Reveal to us your power

that ushers in new realms.

Liturgist: God who calls us beloved, come baptize us.

All: Declare to us your great delight

and hold us in your pleasure.

Liturgist: God of vulnerability, come baptize us.

All: Welcome us into the paradox

of strength that comes from weakness.

Liturgist: Together, let us remember this day.

All: In the Creator's love we are held.

into Christ's body we are baptized,

and by the Spirit's power, we are claimed.

All glory to God. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

God of baptism,
you emptied yourself of privilege
to free us from supremacy.
You were submerged in the depths
so that we would not be alone in them.
You were lifted from the waters
so that all might be lifted up. Amen.

* Opening Hymn

"Baptized in Water" 482 GTG

Congregation



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Sacrament of Baptism

Order for the Sacrament of Baptism

PREPARATION

The minister addresses the congregation:

Nathaniel: Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Creator

and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

(Matthew 28:18-20)

As many of you as were baptized into Christ

have clothed yourselves with Christ.

There is no longer Jew or Greek,

there is no longer slave or free,

there is no longer male and female;

for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

(Galatians 3:27-28)

Baptism is the sign and seal of God's promises to this covenant people.

In baptism God promises by grace alone: to forgive our sins;

to adopt us into the Body of Christ, the Church;

to send the Holy Spirit daily to renew and cleanse us;

and to resurrect us to eternal life.

This promise is made visible in the water of baptism.



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*Water is poured into the font at this time.

Water cleanses; purifies; refreshes;

sustains: Jesus Christ is living water.

Through baptism Christ calls us to new obedience:

to love and trust God completely;

to forsake the evil of the world; and

to live a new and holy life.

Yet, when we fall into sin, we must not despair of God's mercy,

nor continue in sin.

for baptism is the sign and seal

of God's eternal covenant of grace with us.

PRESENTATION

An elder presents the parents of children for baptism.

Carol: On behalf of the session, I present Ezekiel Stephan Barrera, son of Rachel Susan Barrera, and Brandon Michael Barrera, to receive the Sacrament of Baptism

The pastor addresses the Parents/Guardians

Nathaniel: Do you desire that Ezekiel be baptized?

Parents: We do.

Nathaniel: Relying on God's grace

do you promise to nurture Ezekiel,

in the life and faith of the Christian community?

Parents: We do.

Nathaniel: Will you, by word and example, demonstrate to Ezekiel

your faith by doing your best to love God and to love other people,

to follow in the ways of Jesus, to resist oppression and evil, to seek grace, justice,

and peace in the world?



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Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Nathaniel: Will you, as best you are able, seek to grow with N. in the Christian faith and to be

a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating the presence of Christ

and furthering the mission of Christ in the world?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

The minister addresses sponsors/godparents:

Nathaniel: Will you, by your prayers, discipleship and witness,

help Ezekiel to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Sponsors: I will.

The minister addresses the congregation:

Nathaniel: Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ,

promise to guide and nurture Ezekiel

by word and deed, with love and prayer?

All: We do.

Nathaniel: Will you encourage *them* to know, trust,

and follow Christ, by being an example of Christian faith and character,

by giving the strong support of God's family

in fellowship, prayer, and service,

and to be faithful *members* of his church?

All: We will.

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND INTENT

The minister addresses the parents or candidates:

Nathaniel: Beloved of God, you stand before us [having brought this child] to receive the sacrament of baptism. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we enter the covenant God has established in Jesus Christ. Within this covenant God gives us new life, guards us from evil, and nurtures us in love. Through this covenant, we choose whom we will serve by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?



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Parents: I renounce them. Or, I do.

Nathaniel: Who is your Lord and Savior?

Parents: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Nathaniel: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,

obeying his word and showing his love?

Parents: I will, with God's help.

* The congregation shall rise; the minister addresses the members of the congregation:

Nathaniel: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.



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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Nathaniel: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

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

Nathaniel: We give you thanks, O holy and gracious God,

for the gift of water.

In the beginning of creation your Spirit moved over the waters.

In the waters of the flood you destroyed evil. You led the children of Israel through the sea into the freedom of the promised land. In the river Jordan, John baptized our Lord and your Spirit anointed him. By his death and resurrection Jesus Christ, the Living

Water, frees us from sin and death and opens the way to life everlasting. We thank you, O God, for the gift of baptism. In this water you confirm to us that we are buried with Christ in his death, raised to share in his resurrection, and are being renewed by the Holy Spirit. Pour out on us your Holy Spirit, so that those here baptized may be washed clean and receive new life. To you be all praise, honor, and glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever. **Amen.**

Congregation May be Seated

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

At the baptism of children, the minister may ask the parents of each child: What is the name of this child? The minister may hold infants addressing them directly:

Nathaniel: Ezekiel Stephan Barrera. For you Jesus Christ came into the world;

for you he died and for you he conquered death;

All this he did for you, little one, though you know nothing of it as yet.

We love because God first loved us.

Nathaniel: Ezekiel Stephan Barrera, I baptize you

in the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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DECLARATION, BLESSING, AND WELCOME

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church, this child/these children of God is/are now received into the visible membership of the holy catholic Church, engaged to confess the faith of Christ, and to be God's faithful servant/s until life's end. Welcome to the family of God, and to Christ's ministry with us!

Amen. Alleluia!

The minister shall offer the following prayer:

Let us pray. Gracious God, we thank you that you cleanse and renew these your children through your grace alone. Bless and strengthen them daily with the gift of your Holy Spirit; unfold to them the riches of your love, deepening their faith, keeping them from the power of evil and enabling them to live a holy and blameless life until your kingdom comes.

Look with kindness upon these parents. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Grant them the presence of your Holy Spirit that they may bring up these children to know you, to love you, and to serve you. Amen. The congregation shall stand. Welcome our new brothers and sisters in Christ. Joyfully we receive you into the body of Christ. Join with us as we give witness in the world to the good news, for we are all one in Christ Jesus. **Alleluia.**

*Blessing to the Baptized

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

[Numbers 6:24-26]



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2ND HYMN

'Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" #486 GTG Congregation

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dear People of God,
Remember your baptism
Ever ready with cleansing love,
The God of Creation invites our confession,
offering mercy and strength
so that we may start anew.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In the waters of baptism, O God, you have cleansed us and claimed us. Forgive us for refusing your grace and rejecting your name.

We have followed our own paths, and they have led us far from you. Help us to live into our baptisms, to trust that all we need is in you, for you have marked us as your own, loving us without limit.

Wash us with your love again, that with clean hearts we may go in the way of Jesus.

* Time of Silence for Personal Prayers of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon Liturgist

The love of God flows ceaselessly. The mercy of God never ends. This is good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*Responding to Grace "Gloria Patri" #581 GTG Congregation

Congregation May be Seated

<u>Time With Young Disciples</u>

Congregation



Prayer for Illumination

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

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Liturgist

Saving God, source of our calling, your Word is full of power and glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may receive your grace and live as your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

1st Scripture Reading

Revelation 21:1-8

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them and be their God;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also, he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my children. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the sexually immoral, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

Special Music Jerry Paquette

Gospel Lesson Matthew 3:1-12 Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,



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"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight."

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<u>Sermon</u> "The Waters of Creation" Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

<u>Music Meditation</u> Noah Davis

Affirmation of Faith

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.15

* **Sermon Hymn** *"As the Deer" 626* GTG

Congregation

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Invitation to the Table Prayer of Great Thanksgiving The Words of Blessing for the Bread and the Cup The Lord's Prayer



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Call to Offering

* <u>Doxology</u>

* Closing Hymn

* Charge, Benediction

Postlude

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Congregation

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Noah Davis

"How Firm a Foundation" 463 GTG

"What a Mighty God We Serve"



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Each stanza of this compact and carefully constructed text about baptism begins with allusions to John 3:5 and Ephesians 1:13. The interplay of constant and changing lines accentuates each added image. It is set here to a Gaelic tune first transcribed in the 19th century.

TEXT: Michael A. Saward, 1981 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985 Text © 1982 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company) Music Arr. © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources BUNESSAN 5.5.8.5.5.9



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TEXT: Trad. liturgical text MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851 GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)



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BAPTISM

486 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise



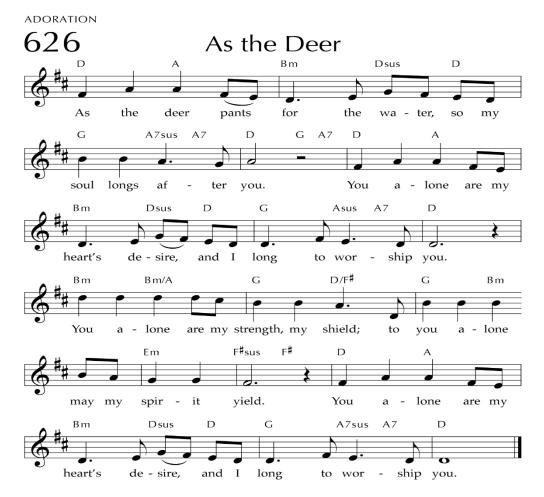
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This hymn addressed to a newly-baptized child begins each stanza with a facet of the child's identity, culminating in "child of God." By being directed to one person rather than the whole congregation, this text occupies a special category among the "songs of encouragement."

TEXT: Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1980 MUSIC: V. Earle Copes, 1959 Text © 1981 Ronald S. Cole-Turner KINGDOM 8.7.8.7 (alternate tune: STUTTGART)



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This praise chorus begins as a paraphrase of Psalm 42:1 and later incorporates parts of Psalm 28:7. In some early Christian communities, people chanted or sang Psalm 42 on their way to be baptized, and many early Christian baptisteries were decorated with deer drinking water.

TEXT and MUSIC: Martin J. Nystrom, 1984

Text and Music © 1984 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing

AS THE DEER Irregular

especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.



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WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE



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