



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*Baptism Is the Cure for an  
Identity Crisis*

January 12, 2025





4651 Kernan Blvd S,  
Jacksonville, FL 32224  
(904) 642-8900

8:00am Worship  
9:15am Bible Class and  
Sunday School  
10:30am Worship with  
Livestream

[victorylutheran.org](http://victorylutheran.org)



*Find us on Facebook,  
Instagram, and YouTube!*



*Victory is affiliated with  
the Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod.*

# Welcome to Victory!

- Thank you for choosing to worship the Triune God with us! May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you as we join together in worship.
- We prepare for worship by quietly meditating on the theme for the day and respectfully listening to the music chosen and prepared by our musicians.
- If you are looking for a church home, we would be thrilled to serve your spiritual needs. Our name comes from 1 Corinthians 15:57: **"Thanks be to God! He gives us the VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ!"**
- Our mission as a Christian congregation is to: "Win souls for Christ and coach Christians for life."
- Please sign the Connection Card inside the worship folder to give us a record of your visit, and so we can properly thank you for joining us!
- Restrooms are located in the hallway to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Changing tables are available in both the women's and men's restrooms.
- A Quiet Room for children who need a quiet moment with a caretaker is located on the right before entering the sanctuary.

## Today's Worship: Baptism Is the Cure for an Identity Crisis

"Who is Jesus?" For the longest time, people thought the answer to that question was, "Mary and Joseph's son" or "a carpenter from Nazareth." While true enough, those answers do not adequately describe Jesus. But when Jesus was baptized, God the Father spoke, declaring Jesus true identity. Jesus was the dearly loved Son of God, chosen to be the Savior of the world.

"Who are you?" someone asks. Perhaps you would answer by providing your name. Maybe you would add additional information—where you are from or what you do for a living. Perhaps, in some dark corner of your mind, you would answer negatively. "I'm no one."

We need to understand that none of those things really describes who we are. To answer that question—Who are you?—we must look to our baptism. Baptism is the cure for an identity crisis. There, just like he did with Jesus, our Father declares us to be his dearly loved child. Moreover, in baptism God anointed us with power for a life of selfless service. May God grant us this epiphany moment!

## Current Sermon Series: Epiphany Moments

"Epiphany" comes from a Greek word that means "reveal." When someone has an epiphany, it's not that reality changed. The way they see that reality is what changed, for a deeper truth has been revealed. An epiphany is an "a-ha!" moment causing us to look at things very differently.

In the Church Year, Epiphany is the season where we see Jesus begin his ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. In this season we will come to understand that when we have Jesus in our lives, it does not always mean our reality drastically changes. It simply means that we see reality differently (and better). Jesus always provides an abundance of epiphany moments.



Jan. 12	Baptism Is the Cure for an Identity Crisis
Jan. 19	God Delivers More than We Ask, Not Less
Jan. 16	Rejection Is Not Proof of Failure

# Divine Service I



## Hymn

*CW379 vs. 1, 4 | Christ, Your Footprints through the Desert*

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## Confession of Sins

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when he said: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

**Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

As baptized children of God we confess our sins:

**Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

In obedience to the command of our Lord and trusting in his promise, you have brought Harvey Anthony Asker to be baptized. Jesus told us: "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." It is in baptism that God grants the new life of forgiveness, joy, and peace to little children. By the power of God's Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe.

### The Baptism of Harvey Anthony Asker

*Son of Tony and Miranda Asker*

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Harvey may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

**Yes, as God gives me strength.**

Let us pray:

Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our baptism as the robe of righteousness we are to wear all the days of our life. Look with special favor on Harvey and grant him a rich measure of your Spirit that he may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Lord.

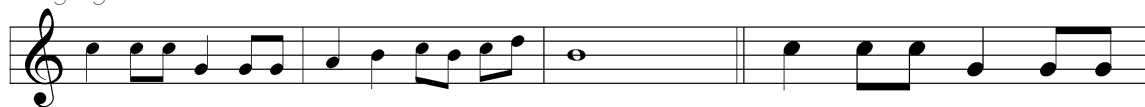
**Amen.**

In the peace of forgiveness and the joy of new life through baptism, let us praise the Lord:

# Glory to God

*Gloria in Excelsis*

*Congregation*



Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us.

Musical notation for the sentence "You are seated at the right hand of the". The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4-B4 (beamed eighth notes), C5 (half), D5-E5 (beamed eighth notes), F5 (quarter), G5-A5 (beamed eighth notes), B5 (quarter), and C6 (half). The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes: "You are seated at the right hand of the".

Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -

ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For

you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

## The Word

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

# Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## First Reading

*1 Samuel 16:1-13*

*God gave David, a lowly shepherd boy, his true identity—the future king of Israel*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

<sup>2</sup>But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”

The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’”

<sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”

<sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

<sup>5</sup>Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

<sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.” <sup>9</sup>Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup>Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.” <sup>11</sup>So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

<sup>12</sup>So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

<sup>13</sup>So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

*Psalm 2A | You Are My Son*

## Second Reading

*Titus 3:4–7*

*Paul explains that baptism is more than a religious ceremony—it is a new identity in Christ*

<sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



# Gospel Reading

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

*At his baptism, God the Father identified his Son Jesus as the Anointed One*

The Gospel, according to Saint Luke, chapter 3.



**Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!**

<sup>15</sup>The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup>When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.



**Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Children's Message

*All children are invited to join Pastor Phil at the front of the sanctuary for a message based on today's sermon, specifically designed for them! If it would help the children would feel more comfortable, an adult is welcome to come up with them.*

## Children's Church

*Children ages 3-5 can be dismissed to the kitchen classroom for Children's Church. Children will return from Children's Church to the sanctuary after the conclusion of the sermon.*



## Hymn of the Day

CW377 | To Jordan's River Came Our Lord

## Sermon

Titus 3:4-7

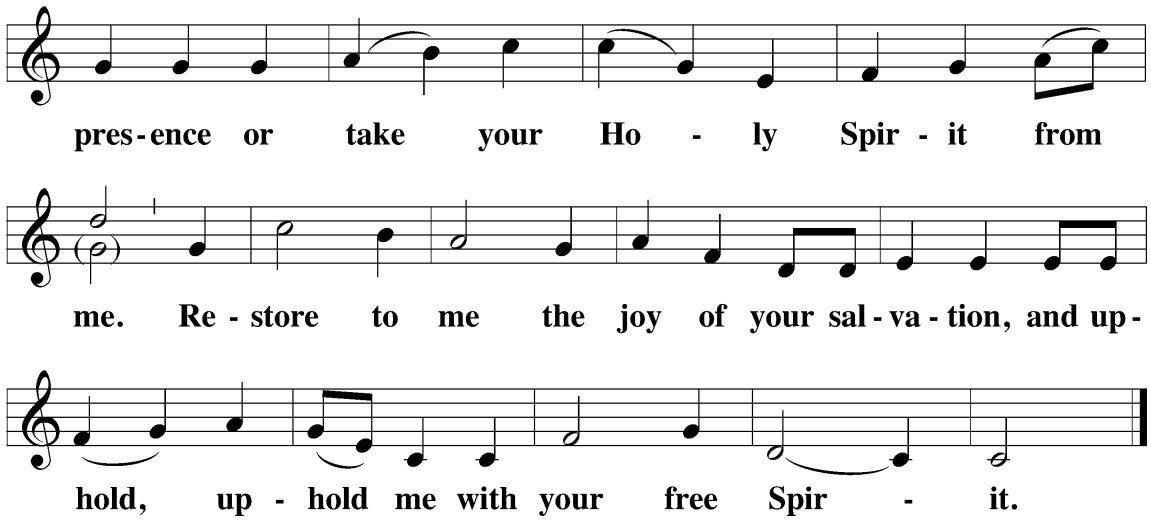
Pastor Phil Hoyer

## Your Identity is Found in Christ!

## Create in Me a Pure Heart

Congregation

Cre - ate in me a  
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -  
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your



## Offering

***Guests:** This is the moment in our worship when members and friends of Victory Lutheran respond to God's good news with gifts to support his saving work in Jacksonville, St. Johns County, and beyond. If you are our guest today, you are welcome to participate in this offering, but don't feel forced to! You can also give an online thank offering by using the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.*



*Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder and drop it in the basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.*

## Offertory

Song  
Edvard Grieg

## Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added*

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.  
Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

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.

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

Amen.

## Closing Hymn

*CW679 vs. 1–3 | God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It*



## Organist

*Mrs. Rachel Cochran*

## Harpist

*Mrs. Virginia Black*

## Acknowledgments

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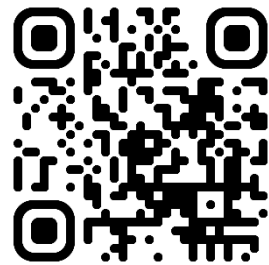
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## Youth Group Game Night

Join us Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm for food, Bible study, and games! Bring your favorite board games and card games, and bring a friend! Visit **[victorylutheran.org/youth-group](http://victorylutheran.org/youth-group)** (or scan the QR code) for all things youth group,



including in fo about this event! Planning on attending? Let Staff Minister Mielke know (so we have enough food)! You can reach him at [jmielke@victorylutheran.org](mailto:jmielke@victorylutheran.org) or (941) 735-6962.



## Save the Date!

On **Thursday, March 20th at 7pm**, the Prep Singers of Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wisconsin will be performing a selection of sacred choral pieces at Victory. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear musically gifted future pastors, teachers, and staff ministers as they give praise to God. There is no cost to attend. Approximately twenty volunteers are needed to host the students and directors. Please consider being a host. Choir tours such as this would not be possible without the hospitality of congregation members like you. If you are interested in hosting, contact Staff Minister Mielke at [jmielke@victorylutheran.org](mailto:jmielke@victorylutheran.org) or (941) 735-6962





## MY WORSHIP NOTES



*For children to use during worship.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the name of the church season or special day today? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the color of the church today? Circle one:

Blue   White   Purple   Red   Green

The Sermon Text Was: \_\_\_\_\_

This is in the:   ☐ Old Testament   ☐ New Testament



What was the sermon about? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



My favorite song today was:



Did we have a Sacrament today?



Baptism?

☐ Yes  
☐ No



Communion?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

Draw a picture of something you heard or saw today:

What did you learn about God today?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Sermon Notes



### Contact Information

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[jmielke@victorylutheran.org](mailto:jmielke@victorylutheran.org)

Victory is a member congregation of the Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS),  
headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

