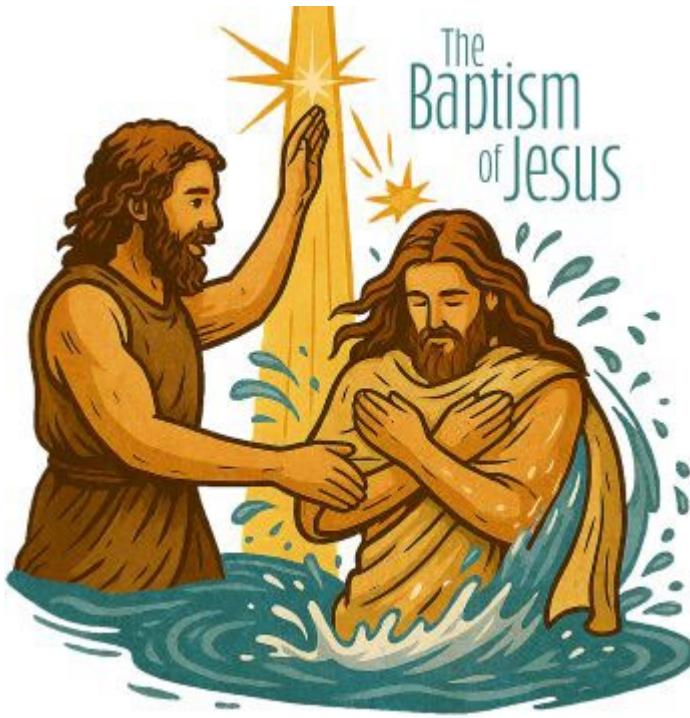


January 11, 2026  
Baptism of our Lord



**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church  
3751 Estero Blvd.  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931  
239-463-4251**

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**Facebook** – St. Peter Lutheran ELCA, Ft. Myers Beach  
**Instagram** - [st\\_peter\\_lutheran\\_ftmyersbeach/](https://www.instagram.com/st_peter_lutheran_ftmyersbeach/)  
**Streaming – Sunday Service 9:00 am** on  
**YouTube** - St Peter Lutheran Church Ft Myers Beach FL  
**In cooperation with Chapel by the Sea Presbyterian Church  
and former Beach United Methodist Church**

*Throughout the service  
the congregation reads aloud the bold print*

## **Prelude/Gathering Music**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

We gather and worship in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to Whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from Whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God Who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

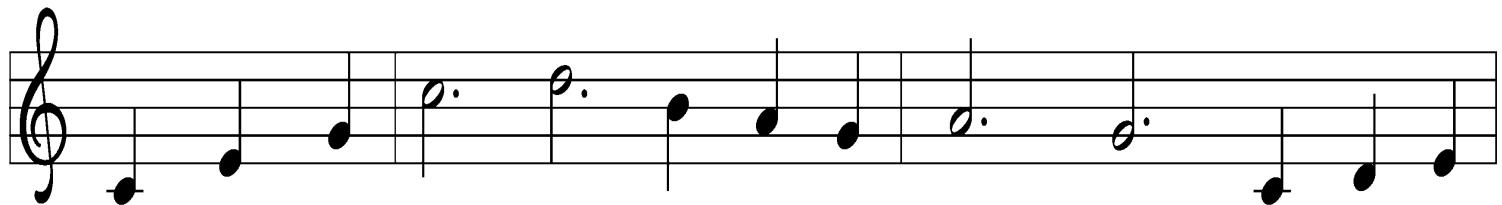
Most Merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your Will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen!**

Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us and, for His sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

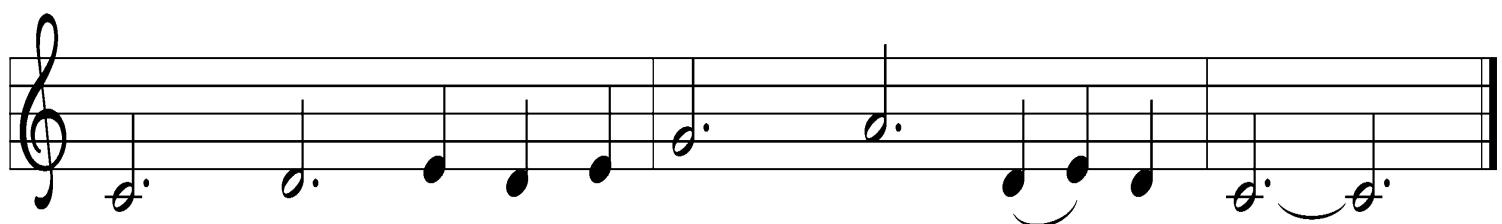
# Baptized in Water



1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the  
2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the  
3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing his  
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -  
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith-ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
giv - en, thank-ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

Text © 1982 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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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

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

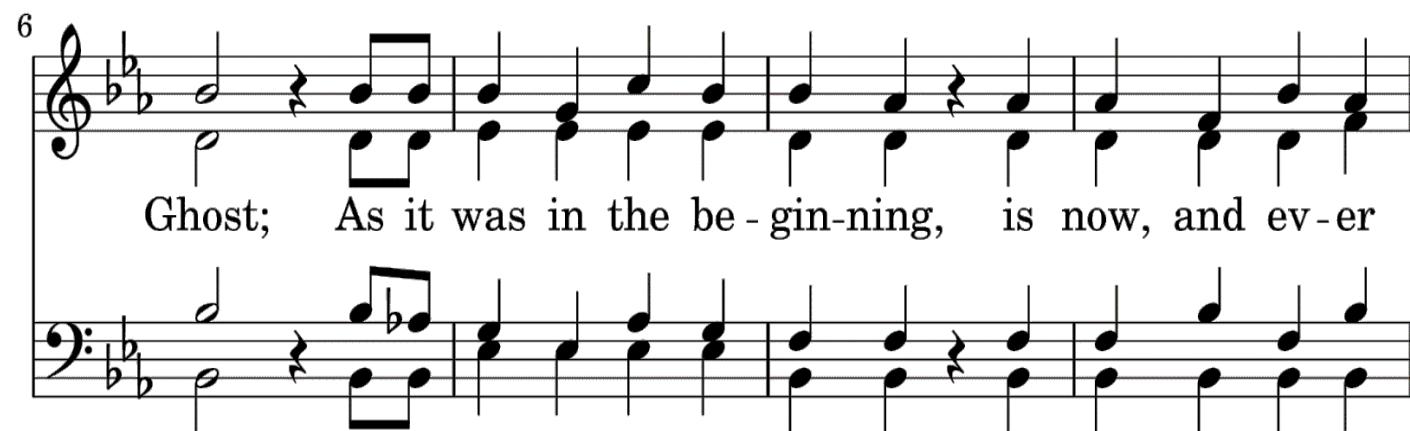
## Glory Be to the Father



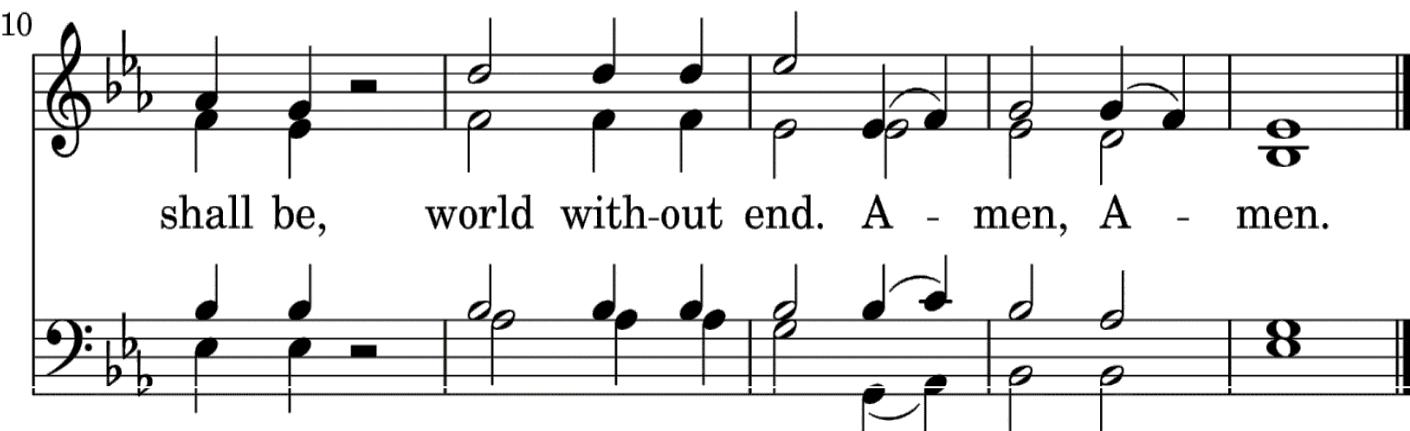
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly



6 Ghost; As it was in the be - gin-ning, is now, and ev - er



shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.



8

## Call to Worship from Psalm 29

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
    ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
    worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory  
thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
    the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
    the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
    and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD  
    bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
    the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> 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!"

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
    the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength to your people;  
    give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

*The first reading is from Acts, the 10th chapter*

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **PLEASE STAND FOR THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### **Gospel**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter

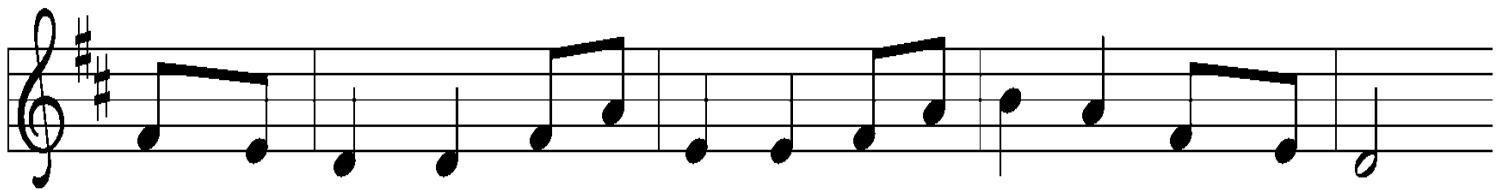
**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

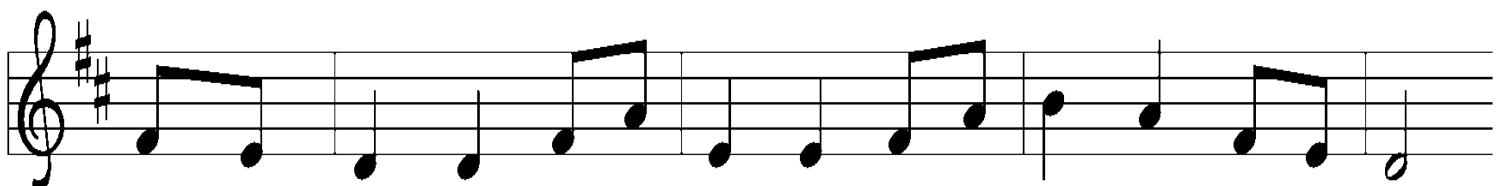
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

**Meditation – Trudy Archer**

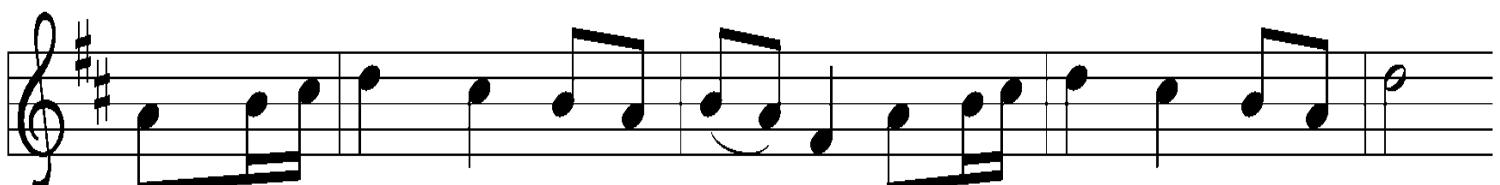
# Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



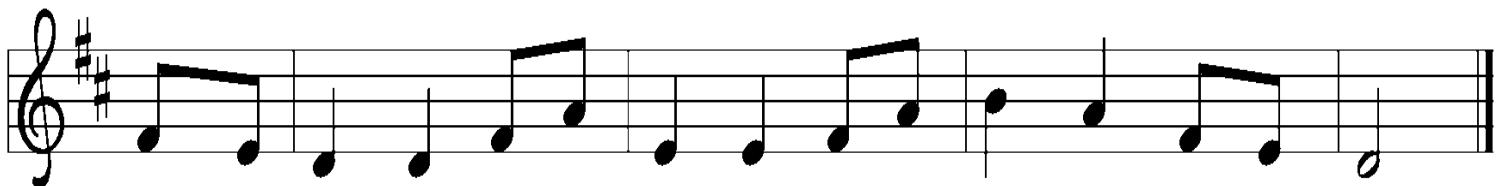
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb-en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.  
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Let us affirm our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed

**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 Christian church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

(Congregation will respond to each petition with  
**Receive our prayer**)

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

# **Offering & Special Music**

## **Offering Prayer**

God of majesty,  
no eye has seen, no ear has heard  
what you have prepared for those who love you,  
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.  
Use what we have gathered  
to feed us with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **Words of Institution**

### **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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.  
All are welcome

## **PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**

**Blessing** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his Grace.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Radiant God,  
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In the sacrament of his body and blood  
you have drawn us to your heart.  
Send us from this table with delight,  
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,  
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

### **Benediction**

As you go on your way,  
May God go with you!  
May He go before you...to show you the way;  
May He go behind you...to encourage you;  
Beside you...to befriend you;  
Above you...to watch over you;  
And within you...to give you His Peace!  
In the Name of the Father, and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**  
God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
**✚** bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

## "Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know He will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen, Amen, Amen

Go in peace. Serve the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERVING TODAY

Pastor

Rev. Tom Frey

Worship Assistant

Trudy Archer

Organist/Choir Director

Carl Lauderman

Flautist

Courtney Eckmann

Ushers

John & Marilyn Torstveit

Digital Ministry Coordinator

Deacon Lisa Miller

**SCAN IN ORDER TO MAKE YOUR OFFERING ONLINE!**





## Living in the Present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."

—from *The Wired Word*

Readings for 11/18/2026

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1Cor 1:1-9, John 1:29-42