



We Make Our Beginning With God's Blessing

Opening Hymn: To Jordan's River

Christian Worship 89, vs. 1, 3, 4, 6 (to the tune of "Ride on Ride on in Majesty")

Please stand.

Our Honest Confession; God's Gracious Forgiveness

L Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."

C **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.** (*John 3:5,6*)

L Surely we were sinful a birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us. (*Psalms 51:5*)

C **But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** (*1 Corinthians 6:11*)

L As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

C **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 Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

L Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 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.

C Amen!

Prayer of the Day

L 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.

C Amen.

Reading from God's Word: Isaiah 49:1-6

Listen to me, you islands;
hear this, you distant nations:
Before I was born the LORD called me;
from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.
² He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me into a polished arrow
and concealed me in his quiver.
³ He said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."
⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing at all.
Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand,
and my reward is with my God."
⁵ And now the LORD says—
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant
to bring Jacob back to him
and gather Israel to himself,
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD
and my God has been my strength—
⁶ he says:
"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant
to restore the tribes of Jacob
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

Reading from God's Word: Acts 16:25-34

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹ They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

Verse of the Day – *Mark 1:11b*

L Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.
C Alleluia.

Song: **Christ your Footprints**

Christian Worship Supplement #709

Today's Message: *based on Mark 1:4-11*

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Stand

Remembrance of Baptism

- L** Holy Baptism is the precious means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. The apostle Paul says: “Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

In Holy Baptism, God takes away our sins and gives new life in Christ our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Renunciation And Confession Of Faith

- L** I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

C Yes, and I ask God to help me.

- L** Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

C Yes, I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

- L** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

C Yes, 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.

- L** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C Yes, 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.

- L** Do you intend to continue in this faith, to be diligent in the use of Word and sacrament and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?

C Yes, and I ask God to help me.

- L** Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with his grace to life everlasting.

C Amen.

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

L Heavenly Father, as your Son fulfilled all righteousness and submitted to Baptism in the Jordan with sinners to your good pleasure, you opened the heavens for us and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. As you have joined us to Jesus' death and resurrection by the waters of Holy Baptism and given us your Spirit, strengthen our hearts and open our ears to hear your holy Word and rejoice that in Christ you have made us to be your beloved children too. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Lord of all power, all the might of nations and kingdoms is nothing before you. We ask you to give your blessings to all those who serve your people in government. Give them good and honest hearts for their service, and lead them to know and do what is good and right for all people. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Gracious Father, at his Baptism, your Son voluntarily took on himself all our frailties and the results of our sinfulness. Give your comfort to all who mourn. Extend your healing hand to all who need your care. Assure them of your promise that even when your people walk through the fire, the flames will not consume them. Grant them faith to believe that they need not fear, for you are with them. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Into your hands, gracious Father, we commend ourselves and all those for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

C **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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

L 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.

C **Amen.**

Be seated

Closing Song: God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

Christian Worship Supplement # 737 vs 1,5