

Service of the Word  
January 7, 2007  
Baptism of the Lord  
First Sunday after the Epiphany

## THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR PRAISE

GATHERING MUSIC

MINISTRY OF FRIENDSHIP

CHIMING THE HOUR

PRELUDE "Brightest and Best" arr. Lani Smith

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *Unison*

**God of all, in Your Son's sacrifice of His very body and blood, You show us the depth of Your love. As we worship You this day, may we resolve to live that love now and throughout this New Year. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" UMH 139

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PARDON

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.**

CALL TO PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

*The 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. Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY

“O Lead Us, Kind Shepherd”

Donald Lee Moore

\*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION

“O Thou Who This Mysterious Bread”

UMH 613

*(Pre-school through Kindergarten age children may leave for Children’s Church during the singing of this hymn. Leaders are located at the door to the north of the pulpit. Children’s Church is located in Room 210 of the Masters Christian Education Building)*

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3: 15-17

ANTHEM

“God So Loved the World”  
Chancel Choir

John Stainer

COMMUNION MEDITATION

“Why Was Jesus Baptized?”

Dr. R. Mark Matheny

LITURGY OF COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(sung responses may be found in TFWS 2257)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord,**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. In his baptism and in table fellowship he took his place with sinners. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

**SENDING FORTH**

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Spirit of God"

TFWS 2117

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

arr. Lani Smith

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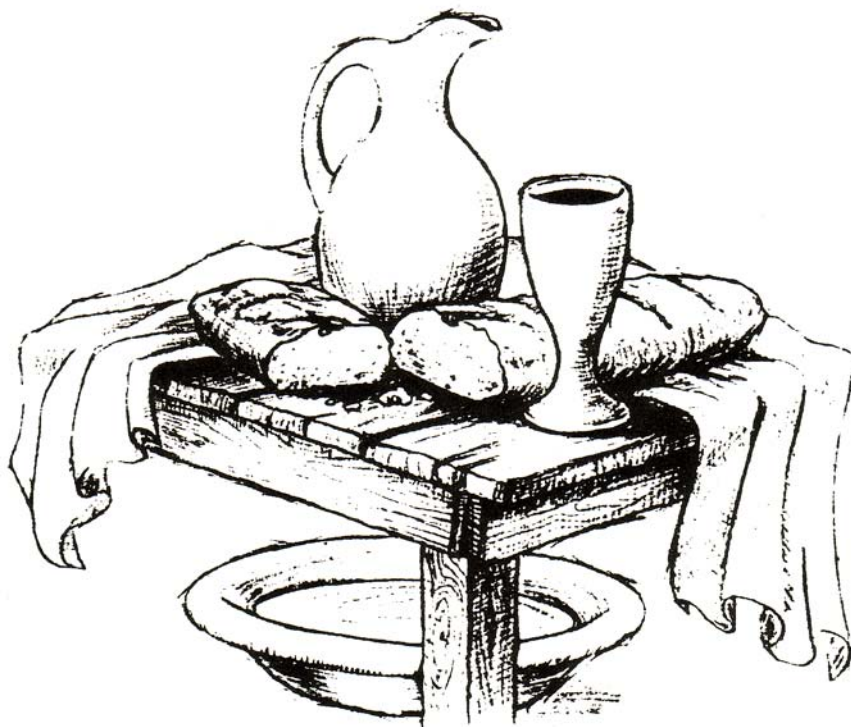
*Hymns with the 3-digit numeral are found in The United Methodist Hymnal. Hymns with the 4-digit numeral are found in The Faith We Sing hymnal supplement. You are invited to stand as able at the places in the service marked with an asterisk.*

**St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
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Memphis, Tennessee 38111-4332  
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**January 7, 2007**

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**“We are becoming a faithful community of disciples  
striving to share the heart, mind and  
hands of Jesus Christ.”**

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Dr. R. Mark Matheny - Pastor  
Rev. Shirley Lynn - Minister of Evangelism  
Dr. Marcia Mittelstadt - Coordinator of Worship Arts and Programming  
Wes Kirkpatrick - Organist