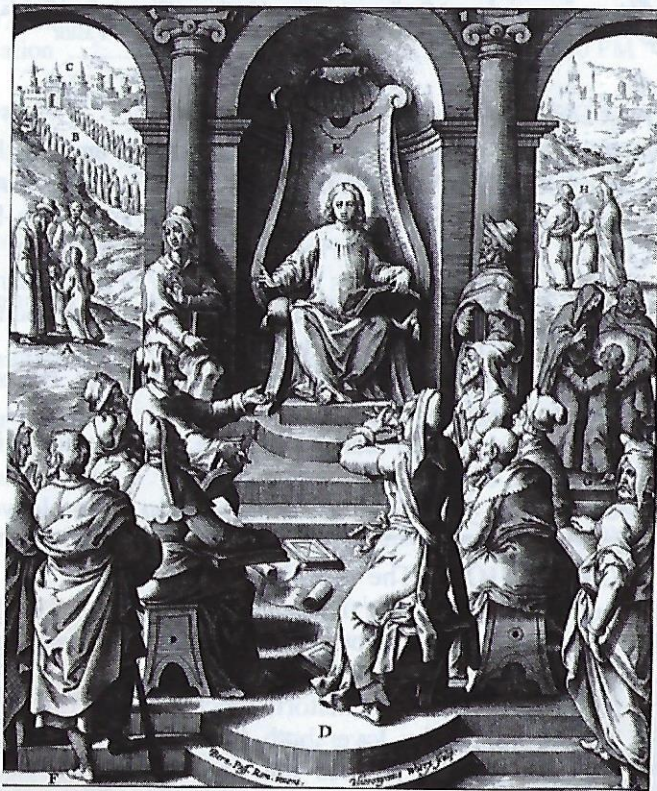


# The First Sunday after Epiphany



*O Lord, we beseech Thee mercifully to receive the prayers of Thy people who call upon Thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfill the same; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and regents with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen.*

-Collect for the First Sunday after Epiphany



## Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

Affiliated with The Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America

*The Rev. Benjamin Henson- Pastor*

*January 7, 2024*

## The Order of the Divine Service with the Order of Holy Baptism

Opening Hymn.....(insert)  
Order of Holy Baptism.....(insert)  
Hymn.....#301  
Confession and Absolution ..... p. 15-16  
Opening Liturgy.....p. 16-19  
Reading.....Is. 61:1-3  
Epistle.....Rom. 12:1-5

Gradual (spoken)

P: Blessed by the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who only doeth wondrous things:

**C: And blessed be His glorious Name forever.**

P: The mountains shall bring peace to Thy people:

**C: And the hills righteousness.**

P: Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands:

**C: Serve the LORD with gladness.**

**Hallelujah.**

Sequence Hymn.....#133

Holy Gospel.....Luke 2:41-52

Nicene Creed .....p. 22

Office Hymn.....#105

Sermon

Offertory.....p. 22

General Prayer.....p. 23-24

Lord's Prayer

Hymn.....#304

Exhortation.....p. 47

Communion Liturgy.....p. 24-28

Distribution

Nunc Dimittis.....p. 29

Thanksgiving.....p. 30

Salutation through Benediction.....p. 31

Recessional Hymn.....#288

+ Soli Deo Gloria +



*The First Sunday after Epiphany*

*January 7, 2024*

## ***Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church***

Affiliated with The Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America

Meeting at Immanuel Lutheran Church, East Peoria, IL

The Rev. Benjamin Henson - Pastor

Church Phone: (618) 727-3244

[www.HolyCrossPeoria.org](http://www.HolyCrossPeoria.org)

[www.eldona.org](http://www.eldona.org)

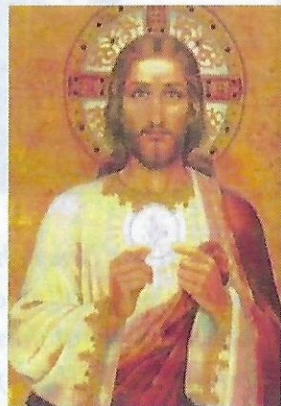
**TO OUR VISITORS:** For the sake of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross God forgives all of our sins. That we might have God's gift of forgiveness, God uses His Word and Blessed Sacraments as the means by which He brings this precious gift to us. The members of Holy Cross are pleased that Christ has led you here to receive His Most Precious Gift: **FORGIVENESS**. Brought here by God and joined with "angels and archangels and all the company of heaven," you now sit at the very threshold of eternity. It is our prayer that you may rejoice at God's goodness shown you in Christ and His Blessed Gospel of forgiveness of sins for His own name's sake.

"For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all who call upon You." Ps. 86:5 NKJV

Please introduce yourselves to Pastor Henson as you leave today!

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**CLOSED COMMUNION:** The Lord's Supper is being celebrated today. Please note that our practice of closed communion with those who are in fellowship with us — members of congregations of the ELDoNA — is not meant to offend, but is the historic practice of the Church. It is prompted by love, both for God's Word and for God's people. It does not deny that members of other denominations may be Christians. Rather, it bows the knee to the Bible's deep concern for doctrinal truth (Rom. 16:17) and the Bible's witness that doctrinal unity (Acts 2:42) is the central issue to the common reception of the Sacrament of the Altar. Therefore, we ask guests desiring to commune to speak with Pastor Henson before the service so that he may know that you are a member of a congregation in fellowship with Holy Cross.



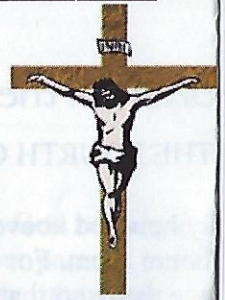
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### **Today's Propers**

The propers for today reveal the person of Christ and His prophetic teaching office. Because He is the Son of God, He instructs us in the divine wisdom of the Gospel and explains how His Father's business is the salvation of mankind. Because He became the child of Mary, He was subject to the Law and teaches us by example how we are to keep the commandments. We are especially exhorted to come to Church for the hearing of His Word and to humbly obey our parents and other authorities.

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# *This Month at Holy Cross*



**Sunday, January 14** + *The Second Sunday after Epiphany* +  
Divine Service ..... NOON  
Christian Education ..... 1:00 PM

**Friday, January 19** + *St. Henry of Finland, Bishop and Martyr* +

**Sunday, January 21** + *The Transfiguration of Our Lord* +  
Divine Service ..... NOON  
Christian Education ..... 1:00 PM

**Wednesday, January 24** + *St. Timothy, Bishop and Confessor* +

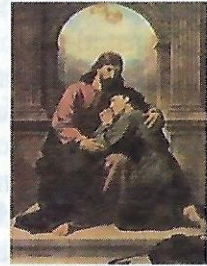
**Thursday, January 25** + *Conversion of St. Paul* +

**Friday, January 26** + *St. Titus, Bishop and Confessor* +

**Sunday, January 28** + *Septuagesima* +  
Divine Service ..... NOON  
Christian Education ..... 1:00 PM

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## **+ Our Prayers This Week +**



- + For the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America, for Bishop Heiser, and especially for Pastor Ahonen, Deacon Henson, and the saints at Peace Lutheran Church in Ironwood, MI.
  - + Of thanksgiving to God for the use of this house of worship and for His blessing upon Pastor Stanford and the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church.
  - + For Paula, as she undergoes treatment for cancer, that God might grant her comfort and healing.
  - + Of thanksgiving to God for the birth and baptism of Louisa Ruth Henson.
-

# Lesson from the Book of Concord

## THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT.

The parental estate God has especially honored above estates that are beneath Him, so that He not only commands us to love our parents, but to honor them. For with respect to brothers, sisters and neighbors in general He commands nothing higher than that we love them; so that He separates and distinguishes father and mother above all other persons upon earth, and places them next to Himself. For to honor is far higher than to love, inasmuch as it comprehends not only love, but also modesty, humility and deference as though to a majesty there hidden, and requires not only that they be addressed kindly and with reverence, but most of all that both in heart and with the body we so act as to show that we esteem them very highly, and that, next to God, we regard them the very highest. For one whom we honor from the heart we must truly regard as high and great.

We must, therefore, impress it upon the young that they should regard their parents in God's stead, and remember that however lowly, poor, frail and strange they may be, nevertheless they are father and mother given them by God. And they are not to be deprived of their honor because of their mode of life or their failings. Therefore we are not to regard their persons, how they may be, but the will of God who has thus appointed and ordained. In other respects we are, indeed, all alike in the eyes of God; but among us there must necessarily be such inequality and distinction with respect to order, and therefore God commands that you be careful to obey me as your father, and that I have the precedence. ...

In connection with this commandment it is proper to speak further of all kinds of obedience to persons in authority who have to command and to govern. For all authority flows and is propagated from the authority of parents. For where a father is unable alone to educate his child, he employs a schoolmaster that he may instruct it; if he be too weak, he obtains the assistance of his friends and neighbors; if he depart, he confers and delegates his authority and government to others who are appointed for the purpose. Likewise he must have domestics, manservants and maid-servants, under him for the management of the household, so that all whom we call masters are in the place of parents and must derive their power and authority to govern from them. Hence also they are all called fathers in the Scripture, as those who in their government perform the functions of the office of a father, and should have a paternal heart toward their subordinates. As also from antiquity the Romans and other nations called the masters and mistresses of the household *patres et matres familiae*, that is housefathers and housemothers. So also they called their national rulers and chiefs *patres patriae*, that is fathers of the country, for a great sham to us, who would be Christians that we do not call them so, or, at least, do not esteem and honor them as such. ...

Thus we have two kinds of fathers presented in this commandment, fathers in blood and fathers in office, or those to whom belongs the care of the family, and those to whom belongs the care of the nation. Besides these there are spiritual fathers; not like those in the Papacy, who have indeed caused themselves to be so designated, but have not performed the functions of the paternal office. For those are to be called spiritual fathers who govern and guide us by the Word of God. Of this name St. Paul boasts (1 Cor. 4:15), where he says: "In Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the Gospel." Because they are fathers indeed they are entitled to honor above all others.

—Large Catechism

# The Baptism of Louisa Ruth Henson



Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

Affiliated with The Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America (ELDoNA)

The Rev. Benjamin Henson - Pastor

January 7, 2024

## 4. To Jordan Came Our Lord, the Christ

Dr. Martin Luther, 1543

Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam

Richard Massie, Tr. a

8, 7, 8, 7, 8, 7, 8, 7, 7

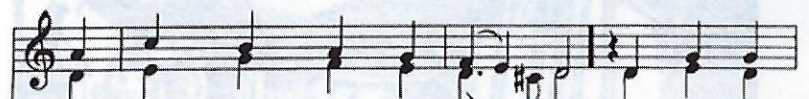
J. Walther, 1524



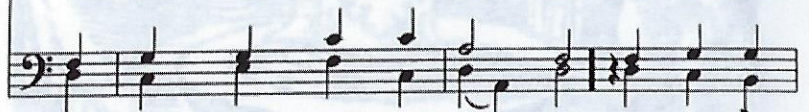
1. To Jor-dan came our Lord, the Christ, To do God's plea-sure  
2. So hear ye all, and well per-ceive What God doth call a



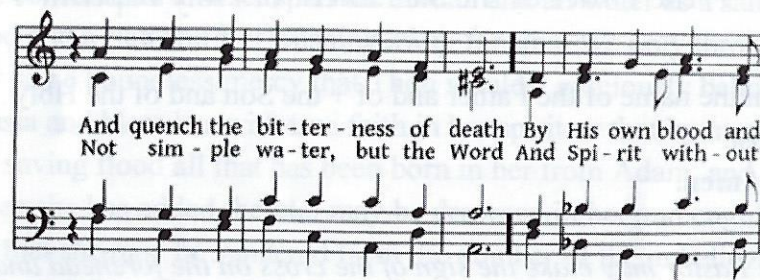
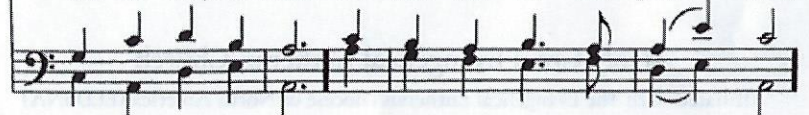
will - ing, And there was by Saint John bap - tized,  
Bap - ti - sm, And what a Chris - tian should be - lieve



All righ - teous - ness ful - fill - ing; There did He  
Who er - ror shuns and schi - sm. That we should



con-se-crate a bath To wash a - way trans-gres - sion,  
wa - ter use, the Lord De - clar - eth in His plea - sure,



And quench the bit - ter - ness of death By His own blood and  
Not sim - ple wa - ter, but the Word And Spi - rit with - out



pas - sion; He would a new life give us.  
mea - sure;— He is the true Bap - ti - zer. A - men.



3. To show us this, He hath His Word  
With signs and symbols given;  
On Jordan's banks was plainly heard  
The Father's voice from heaven:  
"This is my well-belovéd Son,  
In whom My soul delighteth;  
Hear Him!" Yea, hear Him ev'ry one,  
Whom He Himself inviteth;  
Hear and obey His teaching!

4. In tender manhood God the Son  
In Jordan's water standeth;  
The Holy Ghost from heaven's throne  
In dove-like form descendeth;  
That thus the truth be not denied,  
Nor should our faith e'er waver,  
That all three Persons do preside  
At Baptism's holy laver,  
And dwell with the believer.

5. Thus Jesus His disciples sent  
Go, teach ye ev'ry nation,  
That, lost in sin, they must repent,  
And flee from condemnation;  
He that believes and is baptized  
Shall thereby have salvation,  
A new-born man he is in Christ,  
From death free and damnation,  
He shall inherit heaven.

6. Who in this mercy hath not faith  
Nor aught therein discerneth,  
Is yet in sin, condemned to death  
And fire that ever burneth;  
His holiness avails him not,  
Nor aught which he is doing;  
His inborn sin brings all to naught,  
And maketh sure his ruin;  
Himself he cannot succor.

7. The eye of sense alone is dim,  
And nothing sees but water;  
Faith sees Christ Jesus, and in Him  
The Lamb ordained for slaughter;  
It sees the cleansing fountain, red  
With the dear blood of Jesus,  
Which from the sins, inherited  
From fallen Adam, frees us,  
And from our own misdoings.

✠ The Order of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism ✠

P: In the name of the Father and of + the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

**C: Amen.**

*The Pastor may make the sign of the cross on the forehead and breast of the one to be baptized:*

P: Depart O unclean spirit and make room for the Holy Ghost! Receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your mind + and upon your heart + to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray.

O Almighty, eternal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I cry to Thee for this Thy servant, Louisa, who prays for the gift of Thy Baptism and desires Thine eternal grace through spiritual regeneration: Receive her, Lord, and as Thou hast said, "Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you," so give now the good to her that asketh and open the door to the one that knocketh: so that she obtains the eternal blessing of this heavenly bath and receives the promised kingdom of Thy grace; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray

O Almighty, eternal God, who according to Thy righteous judgment didst condemn the unbelieving world through the flood; and in Thy great mercy didst preserve believing Noah and his family; and who didst drown hardhearted Pharaoh with all his host in the Red Sea and didst lead Your people Israel through the same on dry ground, thereby prefiguring this bath of Thy Baptism; and who through the Baptism of Thy dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

hast consecrated and set apart the Jordan and all water as a salutary flood and a rich and full washing away for sins: We pray through Thy same boundless mercy that Thou wouldst graciously behold Louisa and bless her with true faith in her spirit so that by means of this saving flood all that has been born in her from Adam, and which she has added thereto, may be drowned in her and engulfed, and that she may be sundered from the number of the unbelieving, preserved dry and secure in the holy ark of Christendom, and serve Thy name at all times fervent in spirit and joyful in hope, so that with all believers she may be made worthy to attain eternal life according to Thy promise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: The Holy Gospel of St. Mark (10:13-16)

**C: Glory be to You, O Lord.**

P: And they brought young children to Him, that He should touch them; and His disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God like a little child, he shall not enter therein." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to You, O Christ.**

*The Pastor shall lay his right hand upon the head of the one to be baptized and all shall pray together:*

**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. Amen.**

*The Pastor addresses the candidate:*

P: The Lord preserve thy coming in and going out now and forevermore. + Amen.

*The Pastor addresses the parents, and the congregation and sponsors.*

P: Because this child cannot answer for herself, we shall all, together with sponsors and parents, speak on her behalf in testimony of the forgiveness of sin and the birth of the life of faith which God our Father bestows upon her in and through Baptism:

Do you renounce the devil?

**C: I do renounce him.**

P: and all his works?

**C: I do renounce them.**

P: and all his ways?

**C: I do renounce them.**

P: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**C: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P: 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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in the Holy Ghost?

**C: Yes, I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

P: Do you desire to be a baptized and forgiven person?

**C: I do.**

*Then shall the Pastor apply water three times upon the head of the one who is being baptized, as he recites the words of Baptism.*

P: Lousia Ruth, I baptize thee in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

*To the newly baptized and all the baptized here present:*

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you new birth through water and the Holy Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

**C: Amen.**

P: Peace be with you. +

**C: Amen.**

Hymn.....“He that Believes and is Baptized”.....#301

*The Divine Service begins with the Invocation on p. 15.*