

and bones, they look like Turks and heathen. Someone might start up and say, "Why should I value them more than others?" Because the commandment is added, "Honour your father and your mother." I see a different person, adorned and clothed with God's majesty and glory. The commandment, I say, is the chain of gold about his neck. Yes, that is the crown upon his head, which shows me how and why one must honour this flesh and blood.

So, and even much more, you must honour Baptism and consider it glorious because of the Word. For God Himself has honoured it both by words and deeds. Furthermore, He confirmed it with miracles from heaven. Do you think it was a joke that, when Christ was baptised, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit descended visibly, and everything was divine glory and majesty? paragraphs 19-21

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

The Week Ahead

Today	4.30pm	Divine Service at the Brighton Mission
10 Jan	3.15pm	First Drama Club at Orchard Lea Junior School
11 Jan	12.30pm	Pastor's Surgery at the Hub
	2pm	Devotion at Kiln Lodge
	3pm	Devotion at Hunters Lodge
12 Jan	7.45pm	Voters' Assembly — Parsonage
14 Jan	2pm	Installation of Dr. Jonathan Mumme at Westfield House
15 Jan	10.30am	Divine Service — Scout Hall

Further ahead

18 Jan	1pm	Pastor's Surgery at the Hub
19 Jan	7.45pm	Bible Study — Parsonage
22 Jan	10.30am	Divine Service — Scout Hall
28 Jan	10am	ELCE Worship Conference at St. Paul's, Borehamwood

Next Sunday's Readings:

Exodus 33:12-23; Ephesians 5:22-23; John 2:1-11

Daily Readings:

Sun	Ezekiel 2:1-3:11	Romans 1:18-32	Large Catechism II: 47-54
Mon	Ezek 3:12-28	Ezek 4:1-11:25	Rom 2:1-16 LC II: 55-62
Tue	Ezek 18:1-4, 19-32	Rom 2:17-29	LC II: 63-70
Wed	Ezek 33:1-20	Rom 3:1-18	LC III: 1-13
Thu	Ezek 34:1-24	Rom 3:19-31	LC III: 14-24
Fri	Ezek 36:13-28	Rom 4:1-25	LC III: 25-34
Sat	Ezek 36:33-37:14	Rom 5:1-21	LC III: 35-48

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Baptism of Our Lord
8 January 2012

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To visitors:

We are delighted that you have joined us this morning to receive our Lord's gracious gifts and to worship Him.

Please join us afterwards for tea and coffee, if you can.

The Offering

At this time, members of this church are privileged to give to the Lord for the work of His church in this community and throughout the world. For God loves a cheerful giver. Visitors should not feel obliged in any way to contribute to the offering plate.

A note on the service:

Both the hymns and the order of service are found in the Lutheran Service Book. The outline of the service is given in this bulletin. The congregation stands for the portions marked in italics and sits for the rest.

The numbers in the bulletin refer to page numbers in the hymnal, where Psalm 1 is also page one, and the first hymn is 331, following page 330.

It helps to follow the service if you mark your place in the liturgy with this bulletin.

Matins	LSB 219
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219 *Opening Versicles and Responses*

220 *Venite*

Antiphon: **L** The Christ has appeared to us.

C O come, let us worship Him.

Psalm 85 (antiphon: v. 9)

406 Hymn: To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord

205 The Readings

In His Baptism, Jesus Takes His Place with Sinners
Our Lord Jesus is baptised "to fulfil all righteousness" (Matt. 3:13-17). He partakes of a baptism for sinners in order that He might be our substitute and bear the judgement we deserve. In the water, Jesus trades places with us. Our sin becomes His sin. His righteousness becomes our righteousness. Our glory, therefore, is in "Christ Jesus, who became to us . . .

righteousness and sanctification and redemption" (1 Cor. 1:26-31). Jesus is the "chosen" One sent from the Father to release us from the prison house of sin and death (Is. 42:1-7). Baptised into Christ, we also become the chosen ones, beloved of the Father. We cross the Jordan with Jesus (Joshua 3) through death into the promised land of new life with God.

Old Testament—Isaiah 42:1-7

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.² He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.⁴ He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:⁶ "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness."

Epistle Reading—1 Corinthians 1:26-31

²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,³¹ so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Gospel Reading—Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by him.¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?"¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented.¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

221 Responsory

Sermon

Offering

223 Te Deum

227 Prayers

228 Collect of the Day

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptised in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Intercessions and Thanksgiving

228 Benedicamus and Benediction

394 Hymn: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

IN OUR PRAYERS

Members

Ron Miller

Family and friends of members

Lucy, Diana, Eliza; Frank Knibbs; Helen Kriewaldt; Eric Hinkley; Johann Wiebusch; Claire; Margaret & Patrick Tustin; Brian, Jan & family; Lisa; Julie; Corrine & family; Cynthia; Marie & family; Diane; Jean; Sally; Claire and Phil; Gina & family; Molly; Julie Gardner; Paul Simons; Christine; Georgie and Nigel; Geoff & family

ELCE

Brighton Mission; Bristol & Cheltenham Missions, Pr. Bessel; Commission on Theological and Social Concerns; University Students; Jean Leed; Boor family; Van Fossan family; family of †Jean; Debbie Edge and family

The Church of God

The Nordic Mission Province; The Catholic Parish of Fareham and Portchester; Pr. Yousef Nadarkhani

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD THE LARGE CATECHISM PART IV: BAPTISM

We always teach that the Sacraments and all outward things that God ordains and institutes should not be considered according to the coarse, outward mask, the way we look at a nutshell. But we respect them because God's Word is included in them. For we also speak of the parental estate and of civil government in this way. If we intend only to recognise them that they have noses, eyes, skin, and hair, flesh