

Sunday, 11 January 2026 – Baptism of the Lord

At this festival of the Christian year, we not only remember Jesus' baptism, but we celebrate our own: the baptism we share with Christ. Accordingly, this Sunday is an appropriate time to celebrate the sacrament of baptism or the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. It also foreshadows the season of Lent, as Jesus was immediately driven into the wilderness for 40 days after his own baptism.

<https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theology-worship/worship/christian-year/baptism-lord>

Prelude

For over 30 years Dr. Gerre Edward Hancock (1934-2012) was Organist and Choirmaster at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, New York City. Dr. Ed Moore studied with him at the Eastman School of Music. The tune *Schönster Herr Jesu (Beautiful Savior)* is based on a Silesian folk song from the early 19th Century.

Processional Hymn

Doris Akers (1923-1995) was one of Black gospel's most prolific composers and was affectionally known as *Miss Gospel Music*. *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* is one of her most famous compositions and was published in 1962. Watch Doris Akers play and lead in the singing of this beloved song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zJ8YeybpMQ>

Offertory Anthem

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day first appeared in *Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern* in 1833 but is believed to have originated much earlier. The verses of the hymn progress through Jesus' life as told in his own voice. His life is repeatedly characterized as a dance, something that was also later used in the hymn *Lord of the Dance*.

Postlude

Aaron David Miller (b. 1972) is Director of Music/Organist at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. The tune *Deo Gracias*, also known as "The Agincourt Song" is found three times in our *Glory to God* hymnal, #189, 258, 618.