**Call To Worship**

When we pass through the cleansing waters of baptism and the troubled waters of our lives, God declares:

**I will be with you.**

When we go through the fires that refine us and the fires that threaten our livelihoods, God declares:

**I will be with you.**

Even when we travel to the far corners of the earth or down into the depths of our souls, God declares:

**I will be with you.**

 So come, let us worship God whose love never fails, whose presence never leaves, whose mercies never end.

**Praise be to God who, in the form of Jesus, waded into the waters of baptism to prove God’s solidarity with us! Amen.**

**Opening Prayer**

Eternal Father, at the baptism of Jesus you revealed him to be your Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit, Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful to their calling as your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Scripture Reading:**

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, “I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I’m not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can’t be put out.”

When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit came down on him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

The words of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**