

The Baptism of *Greta Lillian Hulden Albanese*

Sunday, May 19th, 2024



PRESENTATION

Pastor: Let us prepare our spirits for rejoicing! For Greta Lillian Hulden Albanese is going to be Baptized this day, and it is her parents' wish to share this joyful experience with you all!

Greta, may your baptism bring joy and serve the community as you daily die to self-centeredness and rise to self-giving love. We join you in this celebration and ask that your baptism and life be blessed with God's unconditional promise of grace, forgiveness, courage, compassion, and love. We are here today to surround you with our love and support in these Storied Waters.

Like the Lord's Supper, Baptism is a physical place where God's promise of the Gospel, the good news, is proclaimed and enacted. That, in combining the Word, faith and earthly elements, we are brought into union and communion with the living God.

What is faith but trust and we have seen Greta's complete devotion to and trust in her parents as they now bring her forward for this blessing. Today, in Beloved Community, Greta will be empowered to live the fullness of her baptism and to join all God's people in serving the community with her gifts.

COMMITMENT + PROMISES

Pastor: John and Maren, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized? If so, say we do. **Parents: We do**

Pastor: Erik and Mallory, you have been chosen as Godparents. This is an important role for every child as they need adults other than their parents in whom they can trust. Do you dedicate yourself to this role? If so, say we do. **Godparents: We do.**

Pastor: Parents, siblings, grandparents and godparents, in Christian love you have presented Greta for holy baptism. Do you promise to support her to the best of your ability, to listen as well as teach, to balance her safety with her freedom to explore, to nurture her physical, emotional and spiritual life, to lift her up in prayer and help her to grow in her faith? Do you intend to act in this way for her sake and for the sake of God's people? If so, say we do.

Greta's Family: We do.

Pastor: Congregation, Friends and Family, you occupy an important place in the lives of the Hulden Albanese family. It is in your company and through the example of our triune God that these three have learned and continue to learn about the tremendous act of giving one's love to another, particularly that selfless love of parent to child and that all trusting love of child to parent. We, their community, continue to have a responsibility to this family and to Greta. People of God, will you promise to nurture Greta in her faith and help her to live in the covenant of her baptism: live among God's faithful people; hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; serve all people following the example of Jesus; and strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

At times of doubt, will you offer this family the strength of your wisest counsel and the comfort of your thoughtful word? And at times of abundant faith, will you celebrate with them, nourishing their love for one another and the world? If so, please respond, "We Will!"

Congregation: We will.

WATER PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, for the blessing of sacred waters, the source of all life. For the mystical separation of waters and sky; for the protective waters that brought us each into the world; for your dividing of the waters - liberating your people through the Red Sea; for the mighty Mississippi, Bdote, ponds and creeks, snow and rain, your waters above us, below us and all around us, we thank you, O God. Meet us in these waters as you have time and time again and may these waters continue to be a place of mystery, birth, liberation, and sustenance for all who encounter them. Amen.

THANKSGIVING at the FONT

Pastor: Greta Lillian Hulden Albanese, I baptize you in the name of our Creator. May the blessings of creation surround and support you all the days of your life. And in the name of Jesus our Redeemer, may you learn his lessons of servant love. And by the Holy Spirit, may you be guided and comforted by the highest aspirations.

PRAYER for the HOLY SPIRIT, SIGN of the CROSS

Pastor: Greta, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Congregation: AMEN!**

Pastor: I light this candle as a sign of the promises made here today and invite you all to join in the baptismal candle charge:

Congregation: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify God in heaven.

WELCOME

Pastor: Greta, we welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. We give thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world we say, amen! Let us welcome you with our quiet hand gesture applause!

