

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 3, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

**PRELUDE** “The First Noel” by Frederick Frahm

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### FIRST READING *1 Kings 3:4–15*

The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.” And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Ephesians 1:3–14*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 2:40–52*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**SERMON I. Lost!**

**II. Where was Jesus?**

- What was the Passover about? What is ironic about Jesus' presence at the festival?
- How could Mary and Joseph lose Jesus?
- What are His first words in Luke? Why are they significant?

**III. Where is Jesus?**

- Where do we "find" Jesus today? In other words, where does Jesus promise to be?
- Immanuel means "\_\_\_\_\_"

When you lose an object, there are certain phrases you can expect people to tell you as they help you to search for your lost item. You can almost be guaranteed to hear the well-intended, but unhelpful and obvious questions: “Where was the last place you left it? When did you use it last? Who used it last? When did you notice it was missing?” If you knew these things, you wouldn’t need help, right? That is why it is lost. When you lose an important object, feelings of anxiety, worry, fear, or panic can kick in until we can find it. When we finally do, there is a sense of relief, or of joy. Perhaps there may be feelings of anger or frustration towards the person who lost the object. Mary and Joseph can relate to this in the Gospel reading. They lose Jesus in Jerusalem when it is up to five times its normal size. They search high and low to find their Son. They are looking for Jesus. Where is Jesus? Let’s find out!

Luke begins by recording that Jesus’ family continued their tradition of going to Jerusalem for the Passover every year. The Law required all males to go to this festival. This holiday was important for the Old Testament faith. It is their Christmas or Easter in terms of importance. It is a big deal. Passover was a festival that celebrated God’s greatest act of salvation in the Old Testament. It featured a family meal and the death of a lamb. The blood of the lamb would be put over the doorpost. The celebration would remind the people of their freedom from slavery and release from a land of death, Egypt. Ironically, the One Whom the festival pointed to was there, Jesus. For Jesus is called the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. His blood shed on the wood of the cross frees us from the slavery of sin and from a life of death. The One Whom the festival pointed to celebrated that very feast every year!

When the festival was over, Luke records that Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. As we look at our text, it seems to be a simple mistake rather than bad parenting on Mary and Joseph’s behalf. It seemed that they traveled back home in a group that featured their family and friends. They were with a trusted group of people as they headed back home. It seems that they thought Jesus was with their group even though they didn’t know where He was. Jesus, however, was not where they thought He would be. I can’t imagine being Mary and Joseph when they realize that they have lost their Son!

It was different to lose a child in that day and age. There were no cell-phones to contact Him. There were no cars to help you travel and search. There is no way to know if He had been kidnapped, killed, lost, or enslaved! It was a dire situation. Mary and Joseph must have been asking each other, “Where did He go? Where did we last see Him? Where is Jesus?”

After three days of searching, Mary and Joseph finally find Him, and they find Him in the temple. It seemed to be an unlikely for spot for them to find their Son. But what was Jesus doing there? Luke says He was **“sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished.”** It seems to surprise them that He is in the temple. Jesus’ knowledge and understanding impressed everyone, even them! But, should it really? He is the Son of God, after all. Mary and Joseph strangely do not always seem to understand everything about Jesus. It seems they surprisingly did not always grasp His identity as God’s Son and what that entails. We even see that in their conversation with Jesus and in the fact they didn’t understand His answer. When His mother found Him, she said, **“Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.”** You can sense a little bit of frustration and annoyance as she says, “look what you have done the last three plus days. Do you know what I have gone through looking for you?”

Now, for the first time in Luke’s Gospel, we hear Jesus speak. He says, **“Why were you searching for me”, or, “why were you seeking me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”** We see in His response the confirmation of His identity as God’s Son. It is no surprise why He is in the temple. It is His Father’s house! His first words also show His commitment to the Father’s will and plan for our salvation. Jesus is committed to dying for you and for me. Jesus is all about His Father’s plan and for His house. That is why He is in the temple. His parents didn’t understand this. His parents still didn’t understand everything about Him and they won’t. However, this does not stop Jesus from returning home obediently with them.

Where was Jesus? Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple. This brings up the same question in our lives, “Where is Jesus in my life? Where is He today? Where is He in times of trouble and hardship? Where is He when I don’t feel Him? Where will He be in the New Year ahead?”

So, where is Jesus today? Where did Mary and Joseph find Him? They found Him in God's house, just like we do! We find a gracious and loving God here and now! It is why we begin every service with the Invocation. Matthew 18:20 says, **'Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with you.'** We begin every service in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit because He promises to be with us as we gather in His name. In fact, He is here with us now. The service is the place where God serves us, it is where He forgives us, it is where He speaks to us through His Word. It is where we go to Him in prayer because He is here. His presence is why we praise Him, too.

But this isn't the only place we find Him. We find Him in Scripture. Jesus is called the Word of God. The Word is how He speaks, guides, and teaches us through the Holy Spirit. We find Him in His Supper. Jesus says that this IS my body, this IS my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of all of your sins. We find Him in baptism too. Baptism is where we are united with Christ in His death and in His resurrection as Paul says in Romans 6. It is where we put on Christ and where we live in Him. Baptism is where He lives in us and is with us. We find Jesus in these places where He has promised to be. These are the places where God chooses to distribute His gifts and benefits. It is where He gives His forgiveness, His Spirit, our identity, His blessings, and a relationship with Him. We get these blessings and benefits because of Christ's death and resurrection from the dead for us. We know where Jesus is. We know where we can find a gracious, loving, and forgiving God now and in the following years.

But there is one more place where He is as well. He is in you and me, believers. He dwells in you and me by His Spirit. In the movie, *Cleveland Abduction*, Michelle Knight was kidnapped and held against her will for 11 years. She was beaten and abused, and in one scene, the captor tries to destroy her faith. He taunts her by saying, "Where was God in all of this?" and she responds, "He has been with me this whole time." She was right. We don't have a God Who abandons us in misfortune or leaves us on our own. We don't have a God Who doesn't care about us or our problems, nor One that forgets us. We have One Who is with us in our suffering, in our pain, and in the injustices that we suffer. We have One Who commits to us through Jesus and Who sustains and preserves us. He hears our prayers and pleas, and asks for them. There is a reason Jesus is called, "Immanuel", it means "God with us!" And He is with us through faith and dwells in us by His Spirit. The very fact that He dwells in believers even changes our view of serving because when we serve and help others, we not only serve them, but the One Who also lives in them. Where is Jesus? He is with you and me!

It can be easy to lose sight of Jesus but we know where He is and where He promises to be. He promises to be here right now in the service and He is. He promises to be in His Word, in His Supper, through baptism, and in you and me because we are His people. Let's find Him in the rest of our service and the places He promises to be. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**MUSIC DURING PREPARATION** "All My Heart Again Rejoices" by Aaron David Miller

## **PREFACE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, merciful and everlasting God, whom we are privileged to call upon as our Father. Mercifully grant that we live in thankfulness for the right we have been given to be called Your children and await with joy the eternity that is to come in Your glorious presence. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, forevermore praising You and saying:

### **SANCTUS**

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**People: 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. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **PAX DOMINI**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

### **DISTRIBUTION**

*You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

**People: Amen.**

**MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION** “What Child Is This” by David Schack

### **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **POSTLUDE** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” *LSB* 380

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King;

Peace on earth and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,

Join the triumph of the skies;

With the angelic host proclaim,

“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Refrain

ref Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King!”

2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,

Christ, the everlasting Lord,

Late in time behold Him come,

Offspring of a virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,

Hail the incarnate Deity!

Pleased as Man with man to dwell,

Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain

3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!

Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings,

Ris’n with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by,

Born that man no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth,

Born to give them second birth. Refrain Text: Public domain

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GENEROSITY THOUGHTS:** *1 Kings 3:4 – “And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.”* Now that’s a big sacrifice! But, of course, Solomon offered sacrifices in proportion to his wealth. The Lord had blessed him greatly, so his sacrifices were correspondingly large. Jesus also praised the widow’s mite, a small amount of money, but a great sacrifice in proportion to her means.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Envelopes for 2021 are here and waiting for you in the narthex of the church. We have included one blue promise card for your personal use. If you wish, you can write down your giving promise for the year and keep that with your envelopes. If you have chosen to do all of your giving online, please contact Maria in the office and we will discontinue ordering envelopes for you. Thank you for your continuing financial support of the ministry at Emmaus.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS THANK YOU:** We would like to thank all who helped us decorate the church this year for Christmas. The following people came to Emmaus on Thursday, 12/17, Friday 12/18, or Saturday 12/19 to decorate the church: Gary; Jean and Carrie; Jonny; Simeon; Ken; Danielle, Louis and Stella; Dean and Marilyn; Todd, Nicole, McKayla and Arlen. -Worship Department

**PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY:** Wednesdays at 2:15 p.m. we will have a prayer and Bible Study group. Each week, we will gather together to pray and study a text. We will be meeting in-person and virtually. For those that attend virtually, we will have you join us via Zoom (contact Pastor Kooi for the link). Please contact Pastor Kooi for more details.

**HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR”** on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “The Backstory Behind a Bible ‘Contradiction’” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. When you open yourself up to hearing the backstory behind the apparent contradiction, you may encounter what the Bible is all about. (Mark 2:13-28)