

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 26, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

Are you prepared for heaven? Admittedly, this is an odd question when we are celebrating Jesus' birth. Yet, Jesus was born to die to save His people from their sins. As Simeon held the Christ Child, he couldn't help but say, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word," while also telling Mary, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed." That opposition eventually brought about His death on a cross. Yet, Jesus was born to die and rise to life again so that all who believe in Him might live! That is the best Christmas gift ever.

HYMN "See Amid the Winter's Snow" sts. 1-3 *LSB* 373

1 See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See, the gentle Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years. *Refrain*

ref Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

2 Lo, within a stable lies
He who built the starry skies,
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim. *Refrain*

3 Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this! *Refrain*
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INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.*

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

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

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are sinful and unclean. We have taken for granted the free gift of salvation You have given us through Jesus. Forgive us, O God, and let us depart in peace, according to Your Word, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus, who came to save us from our sins.

Pastor: Receive the free gift that Jesus offers: the forgiveness of sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Thank You, Jesus! Amen.

INTROIT *LSB 387; Psalm 98:1–4; Isaiah 52:10*

*People: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

People: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

*People: Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

Pastor: The LORD has made known His salvation;

People: He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Pastor: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

People: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

*People: No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.*

Pastor: The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

People: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*People: He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.*

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

People: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of our newborn King, which is beyond our understanding, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our salvation from Christ, the Prince of Peace, for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the Holy Christian Church, for we have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “See Amid the Winter’s Snow” st. 4 *LSB* 373

4. Teach, O teach us, holy Child,
By Thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble Thee
In Thy sweet humility.

Ref Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!
Hail, redemption’s happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15* (The Israelites are to consecrate their firstborn to the Lord.) The Lord said to Moses, “Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.” Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. . . . “When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord’s. Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 111*

Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. He

has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations. The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name! The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

EPISTLE *Colossians 3:12–17* (Wrap yourselves with the characteristics, peace, and word of Christ.) Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Luke 2:30–32*

Pastor: Alleluia. My eyes have seen Your salvation;

People: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:22–40* (Jesus is brought to the temple.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “What Child Is This” *LSB* 370

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies He in such mean estate
 Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
 Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

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SERMON “Wrinkled Wrappings” Luke 2:25-38

- I. They were r_____ and _____ people.
- II. Led by the s_____, they w_____.
- III. They d_____ themselves to His _____.

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

OFFERING

We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you leave the sanctuary.

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

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.

PROPER PREFACE

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, our newborn King, for all that was, is, or ever will be has been created through You. In Your divine goodness, You have chosen us to be Your holy and beloved people through the waters of Baptism. Let Your Word dwell richly in us as we faithfully eat Your body and drink Your blood as You bid us to do in this sacrament, receiving Your full forgiveness; as You reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

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 \times 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 \times blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

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.

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

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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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN “The First Noel” Public domain

1. The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

Chorus: Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night

3. And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay

5. Then entered in those wise men three
Full rev'rently upon the knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense

BLESSING

Pastor: May our Lord's body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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 *Numbers 6:24–26*

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.

HYMN “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice” *LSB* 386

1 Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav’n our voice;
 He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
 Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
 Thou my Savior art!
 Thou my Savior art!

2 Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.
 Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
 Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
 Draw me unto Thee!
 Draw me unto Thee!

3 Now through His Son doth shine
The Father’s grace divine.
 Death was reigning o’er us
Through sin and vanity
 Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.
 May we praise Him there!
 May we praise Him there!

4 Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav’nly ground?
 Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
 Sweetest praises bringing
In heav’nly joy and light.
 Oh, that we were there!
 Oh, that we were there!
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Luke 2:38* – “*And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.*” Notice here how giving thanks to our Lord leads to good works. Thankfulness toward God for all He has done for us is the foundation of a Christian life lived in godliness. For if we know all that the Lord has done for us, how can we not strive to honor Him with what we think, say, and do?

TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: On Sunday, January 2nd, immediately after the 9:30 service, we will be taking down and putting away the Christmas decorations. If you can spare an hour of your time, we would appreciate your help. Thank you!

HATS, MITTEN, AND SCARVES are being collected during the month of December to help local kids. They will go to the local organization, Hats and Mittens, whose mission is “to warm the bodies and hearts of kids everywhere. That starts by providing free hats and mittens to children in need during the cold winter months.” They can be new or gently used, knitted or crocheted items too! Waterproof mittens and gloves, especially for younger kids, are preferred. We are collecting until January 2nd. Questions? Contact Marie G.

THE 2022 ALTAR FLOWER CHART is now posted on the bulletin board by the office. Sign up to bring altar flowers on a special Sunday in 2022. Write your name and the occasion (in memory, anniversary, birthday...) on the flower chart for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin announcements.

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Gospel Power for Personal Patience” Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz. No one likes to wait! Hear God's promises for impatient people. (Luke 2:40-52)