

## The First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.

Lutheran Service Book, Holy Communion, Setting Two



ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Prayer before worship:

Blessed Lord, whose humble birth in Bethlehem we still celebrate, let your light and grace fill our hearts and minds in this time of worship. Amen.

**Pre-Service Music** “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child and Of the Father’s Love Begotten”  
(settings by Matthew Weston)

### Ringing of the Bells

### Welcome

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#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

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

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

*Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **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.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to be born for you and 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.

**C** **Amen.**

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SERVICE OF THE WORD

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### Greeting

**P** Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

### Opening Dialogue

**L** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**L** For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

**C** **And his Name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**L** O, sing to the Lord a new song;

**C** **For he has done marvelous things.**

**L** The Word became flesh and lived among us.

**C** **We have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only Son, full of grace and truth.**

### Gloria in Excelsis

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

**C** **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly king. Almighty God and Father:**

**We worship You, we give you thanks, we praise You for Your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God;**

**You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.**

**For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone**

**are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** 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.

**C Amen.**

### **First Reading**

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

<sup>1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,  
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,  
and her salvation as a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your righteousness,  
and all the kings your glory,  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm**

Psalm 111

**L** Praise the LORD!  
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**C 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 Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Ⓘ This is the Word of the Lord.

Ⓒ **Thanks be to God.**

### Holy Gospel

St. Luke 2:22-40

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

Ⓒ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>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, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup>"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>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 <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup>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, <sup>37</sup>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. <sup>38</sup>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. <sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

☐ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

"Protocols for Purification"

**Profession of Faith**

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is**

seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, † and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

**P** Blessed by the light of Christ incarnate, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Special petitions are announced, followed by a brief silence. Each petition closes with the words, "Lord in Your mercy." Please respond by saying, "hear our prayer."*

*The prayers conclude with:*

**P** Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

**G Amen.**

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).*

### **Announcements**

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#### SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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### **Preface**

**P** The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

**G And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**G We lift them to the Lord.** *[Colossians 3:1]*

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** *[Psalm 136]*

### **Preface for Christmas**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us

a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## **Sanctus**

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**☩ Holy, holy, holy, Lord,  
Lord God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**P** 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.

**☩ Amen.**

## **The Words of Our Lord**

**P** 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."

**P** 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."

## Proclamation of Christ

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

**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** 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

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

**C** **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

**P** The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **Amen.**

## Agnus Dei

*John 1:29*

**C** **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

## Distribution

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

## Distribution Music

"What Child Is This"	(setting by Duane Funderburk)
"Let Our Gladness Banish Sadness"	(setting by Keith Kolander)
"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"	(setting by James Biery)

## Dismissal

### Post-Communion Collect

**L** Let us pray.

Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## **Benediction**

**P** May Christ, born into time to bring endless peace, guide your days and years in righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

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.

**C Amen.**

## **Sending**

**L** Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (setting by Matthew Weston)

## **Our Ministry of Worship**

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Lay Assistant	Steve Tracy
Pianist	Susan Gobien
Ushers	Barbara Pate
Altar Care	Cathy Long
AV Team	Scott Budzien
Sanctuary Cleaning Team	Barbara Pate

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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