

The Second Sunday after Christmas

January 3, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

Holy Communion, Setting 2



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 “We Three Kings, Variations” (setting by Greg Bottomley)

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

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.

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.

C **Amen.**

First Reading

1 Kings 3:4-15

⁴ 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. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶And 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. ⁷And 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. ⁸And 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. ⁹Give 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?" ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And 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, ¹²behold, 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. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days." ¹⁵And 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 119:97-104

L Oh how I love your law!

It is my meditation all the day.

C **Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is ever with me.**

L I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation.

C **I understand more than the aged,
for I keep your precepts.**

- L** I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.
- C** **I do not turn aside from your just decrees,
for you have taught me.**
- L** How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
- C** **Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.**

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In 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, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In 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, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

St. Luke 2:40-52

*Please join in reading aloud the highlighted portion of Scripture
and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.*

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but 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, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And 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." ⁴⁹**And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"** ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And 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.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

"Lost and Found"

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.

C 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

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

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

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C 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

C 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.

C 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

- "The First Noel, from Eric Satie's *Gymnopedie*" (arranged by Alice Carpenter)
Duet: Eve and Karen
- "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here" (setting by Valerie A. Floeter)
- "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here" (setting by Sandra Eithun)

Dismissal

Post-Communion Collect

L Let us pray:

Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of bread 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. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" (setting by Benjamin M. Culli)



Our Ministry of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Lay Assistant	Chuck Fosse
Pianist	Susan Gobien
Ushers	Barbara Pate
Altar Care	Cathy Long
Arrival and Check-In	Elisabeth Auld
AV Team	Greg Auld
Sanctuary Cleaning Team	Barbara Pate

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Please visit our website at www.sjlc.com for devotional readings for use in the week ahead or to learn more about our life together as a congregation.

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