

SECOND SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS

January 3, 2021



AS WE GATHER

The end of a calendar year and the beginning of a new set of months brings a special opportunity to look at our lives. What has been most memorable in our lives in the past weeks and months? How might our priorities change in the next months? The Readings in today's service are not often heard because the calendar does not always bring two Sundays after Christmas. Wisdom is waiting to be found by each of us here in this place today as we hear God's Word and seek His kingdom in this New Year of grace. God's wisdom is here to bless us each time we gather for worship!

+ PREPARATION +

HYMN ~ 381 *Let Our Gladness Have No End*

- 1 Let our gladness have no end, alleluia!
For to earth did Christ descend, alleluia! Refrain

- ref On this day God gave us
Christ, His Son, to save us;
Christ, His Son, to save us.

- 2 Prophesied in days of old, alleluia!
God has sent Him as foretold, alleluia! Refrain

- 3 See, the loveliest blooming rose, alleluia!
From the branch of Jesse grows, alleluia! Refrain

- 4 Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia!
He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia! Refrain

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Hebrews 8:10-12; Psalm 122:1

Pastor: "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord:

People: I will put My laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Pastor: And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.

People: For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

Pastor: I was glad when they said to me,

People: "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious and heavenly Father.

People: Eternal God, we confess that by nature we are sinful people. We have transgressed Your Law in many ways, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not always been wise in our thinking and our speaking and our actions. Our motives and thoughts have not always been pure. We deserve Your punishment now and for eternity. O God, in Your mercy forgive our sin and restore us to a full and joyful relationship with You, through the merits of Jesus, our Lord. Direct all that we do by Your Holy Spirit that in the year now beginning we joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your Commandments as Your redeemed people.

Pastor: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

INTROIT

Psalm 147:1, 5, 11-12; antiphon: John 1:14

Pastor: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Women: Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

Men: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.

Women: But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love.

Men: Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

HYMN ~ *Have Mercy on Your People, Lord*

Have mercy on Your people, Lord. / Have mercy, Christ, our King.

Renew us by Your mercy, Lord; / Accept the prayers we bring.

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty Father, You have shined on us the new Light of Your Word made flesh, who lived among us. Cause us to find in Jesus, this Light, who and what is really important in life, and grant us Your blessing as we follow Him; 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.

SONG OF PRAISE ~ *Glorify Thy Name*

***Father, we love You, we worship and adore You, glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name in all the earth.***

***Jesus, we love You, we worship and adore You, glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name in all the earth.***

***Spirit, we love You, we worship and adore You, glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name in all the earth.***

"Glorify Thy Name" CCLI Song Number 1381 Words and music by Donna Adkins. © 1976 Maranatha Music / CCCM Music (admin by Music Services) Used by permission. CCLI #ZZZZZZ

OLD TESTAMENT READING ~ 1 Kings 3:4-15

After the reading:

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 119:97-104

Pastor: Oh how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

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

Pastor: I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

People: **I understand more than the aged, for I keep Your precepts.**

Pastor: I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep Your word.

People: **I do not turn aside from Your just decrees, for You have taught me.**

Pastor: How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

People: **Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE ~ Ephesians 1:3-14

After the reading:

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.**

After the reading:

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN ~ 410 *Within the Father's House*

- 1 Within the Father's house / The Son has found His home,
And to His temple suddenly / The Lord of life has come.
- 2 The doctors of the Law / Gaze on the wondrous child
And marvel at His gracious words / Of wisdom undefiled.
- 3 Yet not to them is giv'n / The mighty truth to know,
To lift the earthly veil that hides / Incarnate God below.
- 4 The secret of the Lord / Escapes each human eye,
And faithful pond'ring hearts await / The full epiphany.
- 5 Lord, visit Thou our souls / And teach us by Thy grace
Each dim revealing of Thyself / With loving awe to trace

D 6 Till we behold Thy face / And know as we are known
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, / Coequal Three in One.

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SERMON ~ “The Things of My Father” Luke 2:49

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

OFFERING (*Online giving is available on the website.*)

OFFERTORY ~ 391 *Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn*

1 Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn, / A Savior unto us is born,
The Christ, the Lord of glory!
His lowly birth in Bethlehem / The angels from on high proclaim
And sing redemption's story!
My soul, extol
God's great favor;
Bless Him ever
For salvation;
Give Him praise and adoration!

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+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

[Psalm 136]

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

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God. You summon us to be Your people who hear the call of Christ and follow it, knowing its true importance for our lives. Grant that we know the joy of being in harmony with our Creator in all things and to treasure the life of faith and worship we share. Grant that we worthily receive the body and blood of our Lord here given as the bread of life and cup of salvation, which are a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People: Amen.

HYMN ~ “Sing Holy, Holy, Holy”

***Sing holy, holy, holy, Lord God of pow’r and might;
Heav’n and earth, Your glory, You fill from depth to height.
With our high hosannas, We welcome Him who comes
In the Lord God’s name. Blest the Christ who comes!***

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, almighty Lord, for calling us as Your people and displaying Your abiding care for us as we respond to Your call as Your followers and Your friends. Gathered as Your family at Your gracious invitation, grant that we be strengthened in faith toward You and in genuine love for one another as we walk each day in the wisdom You graciously supply and confidently await Your coming in glory. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer our thanksgiving and prayer.

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 + 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.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20

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

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.

HYMN ~ “O Christ, the Lamb of God, You Take”

***O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take the world’s sins all away.
O Lamb of God be merciful, Upon us all we pray.
O Lamb of God be merciful, And take our sins away,
And grant us peace, O grant us peace, Your perfect peace, we pray.***

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DISTRIBUTION *in the Sanctuary*

THE DISMISSAL

HYMN ~ 937 *Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace*

- 1 Lord, bid Your servant go in peace, / Your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn, / This child so long foretold.
- 2 This is the Savior of the world, / The Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst, / The joy of Israel.
- D 3 With saints of old, with saints to come, / To You we lift our voice;
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest / Be honor, love, and praise.

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed are You, almighty God, for by You we have been fed and nourished with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Give us faith to rejoice in His salvation, knowing that what He has done for us will last for time and eternity. Grant us Your abiding peace each day of our lives as we await Your eternal kingdom. In the name of Jesus, our hope and comfort, we pray.

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.

Numbers 6:24-26

People: Amen.

HYMN ~ 850 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,
On Your people pour Your pow'r;
Crown Your ancient Church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.
- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.
- 3 Cure Your children's warring madness;
Bend our pride to Your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.
- 4 Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving You whom we adore,
Serving You whom we adore.

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