

## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Thank God for the Gift of Jesus

December 27 & 28, 2014

5:00pm & 8:00am

### AS WE GATHER

We gather in church on this First Sunday after Christmas just a few days removed from the crowds of Christmas Eve. Fewer seem to gather on this day than on Christmas Eve, yet our trip to church today still brings us the amazing gift of our Savior, born to redeem us and to adopt us into the Body of Christ. As many of us travel this time of year, so Mary, Joseph, and the newborn Jesus traveled. They went to Jerusalem, to present Jesus to the Lord, according to the traditional practice of their day. While in the temple, something amazing happened. Simeon took Jesus up in his arms and blessed God with words we now sing in worship, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace . . ." (*Nunc Dimittis*). Then Simeon blessed Mary and Joseph. Next a prophetess named Anna gave thanks to God for Jesus and spoke of Him to all who were waiting for God's redemption of His people. Taking our cues from Simeon and Anna today, we gather here to bless, praise, and thank God for the gift of Jesus. And like them we are sent out to participate in fulfilling the covenant that goes all the way back to Abraham—that all nations will be blessed through his offspring, that is, through Jesus and through us as the Body of Christ.

### WELCOME

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God,  
"who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8, NIV)

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN #383 "A Great and Mighty Wonder"

A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:  
The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure!

**Refrain:** *Proclaim the Savior's birth:  
"To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth!"*

The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,  
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky. *Refrain*

While thus they sing your Monarch, Those bright angelic bands,  
Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands. *Refrain*

Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,  
The infant born in Beth'lem, The Savior and the Lord. *Refrain*

All idols then shall perish And Satan's lying cease,  
And Christ shall raise His scepter, Decreeing endless peace. *Refrain*

(Rise)

### INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 111:1-4, 9*

Pastor: Gathered in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit, people of God, praise the LORD!

**People: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart.**

Pastor: Great are the works of the LORD.

**People: Full of splendor and majesty is His work.**

Pastor: He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered.

**People: He sent redemption to His people. Holy and awesome is His name!**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.**

Pastor: We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

**People: We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

Pastor: We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment.

**People: For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

**People: so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. You are no longer a slave, but a son. Therefore, 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: Amen.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE #387

#### "Joy to the World"

Stanzas 1 & 3

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.

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.

## 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.**

(Be seated)

## ✠ WORD ✠

### OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 61:10–62:3*

("The nations shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory.") I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### EPISTLE *Galatians 4:4–7* ("When the time had fully come, God sent His Son.")

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

**8:00 CHOIR ANTHEM**      "*Glory to the Newborn King*"      Words & Music by Lloyd Larson

(Rise)

### HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:22–40* (Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the temple.)

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived. When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every first-born male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon him.

(Be seated)

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**SERMON HYMN #389**      "**Let All Together Praise Our God**"      Stanzas 1-5

Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne;  
Today He opens heav'n again To give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.

He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne, Is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall, Lies in a humble stall.



**bold to speak the truth in love, that many millions of Americans would repent of sin and trust in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Lord God, we pray for the ill, the suffering, and those facing difficult days. You are the hope of all who call on you in truth. Hear us as we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering in body or spirit especially Dennis, Jack, Virginia, Dolores, Arline, Ginger, Gretchen, Mark, Richard, Sarah and Lois.

**People: Strengthen and encourage them; if it be your will, restore them to full health. Be with our shut-ins, and let their time at home be rich with prayer and meditation on your Word.**

Pastor: Jesus, our Savior, Guardian and Friend, you spent the last night of your earthly life with your disciples, and gave them the gift of the Lord's Supper. Be with us now, as we gather for the same meal they shared with you so many years ago.

**People: Grant that each of us who comes to the Table would receive the same blessings that they received — your own body and blood, for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith.**

Pastor: All these prayers and whatever else we need, we ask it in the name of Jesus; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

## WORDS OF OUR LORD

## THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

**People: Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI

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O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

7(Be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION** Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

## HYMN #374 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undeiled, To the world a stranger,  
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undeiled But no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;  
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!

## HYMN #359 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming As prophets long have sung,  
It came, a flow'ret bright, Amid the cold of winter, When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, She bore to us a Savior, When half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness ev'ry-where.  
True man, yet very God, From sin and death He saves us And lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, Who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory, Who dost our weakness know:  
Bring us at length we pray To the bright courts of heaven, And to the endless day.

### **HYMN #375 “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”**

Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.

Christ, from heav’n to us descending And in love our race befriending;  
In our need His help extending, Saved us from the wily foe.

Jacob’s star in all its splendor Beams with comfort sweet and tender,  
Forcing Satan to surrender, Breaking all the pow’rs of hell.

From the bondage that oppressed us, From sin’s fetters that possessed us,  
From the grief that sore distressed us, We, the captives, now are free.

Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
And to You we come confession That Your love has set us free.

Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us Till we join Your choir above.

### **COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Lord God, Father of us all, who sent your Son, our Lord Jesus, into the world as a baby born in humble circumstance, we give you thanks for the gift of His body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. Bless us as we go out into the world you created and redeemed, so that we may be heralds of your love and mercy every day of our lives, and in the fullness of time join the heavenly feast to sing your praise eternally; 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: You are free to go in peace. You have seen the salvation of the Lord. The Word of the Lord has been fulfilled in Jesus, the light of the world. 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.**

### **CLOSING HYMN #386**

### **“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”**

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!

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!

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!

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!

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Puppet Ministry

Choir Director

Organist

Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Pat Graf, Heidi Leiser, Carri Wolcyk

Emily Reinhardt, Montana Wendt

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Nancy Hoelke

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