

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Seeing His Salvation
December 26 & 27, 2015
5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

One gift that could never come in the wrong size is Christ. He will always be exactly what we want and need: a sacrifice who takes our place on the cross and in the tomb. The apostle Paul writes in Colossians that the blessings that come with salvation in Jesus Christ are intended for all people. Simeon and Anna recognized this when they held the gift of a Savior in their arms at the temple. Through God's mercy, grace, and love, the gift of Jesus for us is one that we especially treasure this Christmas season and each day of every year.

WELCOME

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. (Galatians 4:4-5, NIV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #367 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" *Rise for the last stanza*
Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain **Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light. **Refrain**

Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star. **Refrain**

Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear. **Refrain**

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One. **Refrain**

INVOCATION

Congregation sings responses using refrain of LSB #367

Pastor: In the name of the Father, who so loved the world He gave His one and only Son.

People: ♪ **Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Pastor: In the name of the ✠ Son, the Lamb of God, who was born for us and takes away the sin of the world.

People: ♪ **Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Pastor: In the name of the Holy Spirit, who has called, gathered, enlightened, and sanctified us through Jesus, our newborn Savior.

People: ♪ **Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Luke 2:29–32, adapted; Psalm 139:23*

Pastor: Lord, let my eyes see your salvation,

People: that you have prepared in the presence of all people,

Pastor: a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

People: and for glory to your people Israel.

Pastor: Search me, O God, and know my heart!

People: Try me and know my thoughts!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We come before God, who has searched us and knows our hearts and minds, to confess our sins to God our Father. Most merciful God,

People: 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.

Pastor: We have not loved you with our whole heart;

People: we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Pastor: With repentant hearts, help us to reject our sinful nature and put on the new self.

People: Let our eyes see the salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all people.

Pastor: Salvation has come! Jesus has been born into the world in fulfillment of the Father's covenant with His people that He would not condemn the world, but save it. I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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

"Gloria in Excelsis"

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Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

People: (sung)

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 & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: 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 *Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15* (The law concerning the firstborn) The LORD said to Moses, "Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether man or animal."

Then Moses said to the people, "Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast. "After the LORD brings you into the land of the

Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your forefathers, you are to give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD. Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons. "In days to come, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed every firstborn in Egypt, both man and animal. This is why I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.'

EPISTLE *Colossians 3:12–17* (Put on love.)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

8:00 CHOIR ANTHEM

"The Music of Christmas"

Joseph M. Martin

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:22–40* (Simeon and Anna meet Jesus, Mary, and Joseph at the temple.) 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 firstborn 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 #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**

SERMON "Into Our Arms" Luke 2:22-40

(Rise)

NICENE CREED (found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Father in heaven, you made your Son the firstborn among many brothers. Open our eyes to see your salvation for all the world. Stir our hearts by your Holy Spirit to support the mission of your Church.

People: As we share your love and truth, build others up in the faith. Bless us also to encourage sons and daughters to consider your call to serve in your Church and to give sacrificially to provide for the work of proclaiming Christ to the nations.

Pastor: Eternal God, our lives are in your hands. Preserve the lives of little children, protecting them in the womb, at birth and as they grow. Guide their parents to provide for their needs, but especially bringing them to Baptism and nurturing them in faith.

People: Bind us to you throughout our earthly life, and as you kept Simeon and Anna in faith, give to us all true faith until this life's end when you take us to be with you.

Pastor: Lord God, as your baptized children, holy and beloved, clothe us in Christ's righteousness, putting on His compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness and, above all, love.

People: Grant that His peace might rule in our hearts and our lives might bear the fruit of faith.

Pastor: O God, whose praise is sung by all creation, we give thanks for the gift of music and for the musicians whose discipline, skill and love for you lead us to sing your praise.

People: Let the Word of Christ ever dwell in us richly, inspire our musicians, and bless our worship, so that your Church is filled with joyful songs.

Pastor: God, our King, you rule the nations of the world, giving government to oppose injustice and oppression.

People: Give wisdom and truth to all who rule this land, that they may serve faithfully to promote what is good and right and punish evil.

Pastor: Father in heaven, you call us to rejoice with those who rejoice and sympathize with those who grieve. Bless and be with Mae Zepnick as she remembers Roy and Leona.

People: Give Dorothy joy as she celebrates her birthday and give us all thankful hearts that acknowledge all your blessings.

Pastor: Precious Lord, your mercies are new each day. Show forth your mercy to those who are in great distress of body or soul especially Roy, Edith, Rosalie, Judy, Mae, Marion, Debra, Helen, Leonard, June, LuEva, Eleanor, Linda, Gladys, Russ, Kathleen, Jack, Shirley, Marion, Gretchen, Lois and Sarah.

People: Grant them healing, relief from pain, and a peaceful spirit as they trust in your promises and believe you will answer their cries in accord with your good and gracious will.

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, give faith to all who will receive Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar.

People: Grant us all to believe His Word, trust His promises, and be comforted by and assured of forgiveness.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE 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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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.

(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 #606 "I Lay My Sins on Jesus"

I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From accursed load. I bring my guilt to Jesus
To wash my crimson stains Clean in His blood most precious
Till not a spot remains.

I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases; My soul He does redeem. I lay my griefs on Jesus,
My burdens and my cares; He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.

I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces; I on His breast recline. I love the name of Jesus,
Immanuel, Christ, the Lord; Like fragrance on the breezes
His name abroad is poured.

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 #389 "Let All Together Praise Our God"

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.

Within an earth-born form He hides His all creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.

He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm, His glory, and His name, His glory, and His name.

He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He, No truer friend than He.

He is the key and He the door To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise, To God our praise rise.

Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore; We praise You evermore.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE "Song of Simeon" *Page 165*

♪ Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:
A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.
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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: We now depart in continued Christmas joy of the Savior born for us. 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.

Pastor: Our eyes have seen your salvation; we now depart in peace according to
your Word. Go in this same peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

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
Children's Ministry
Acolytes
Organist
Choir Director

Pastor Gregg Stanton
Pastor Harold Bender
Carri Wolcyk, Bob Reynolds
Laurel Privatt
Isabella Foti, Dante Militello
Roger Gottschalk
Nancy Hoelke

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New Years Eve Worship
December 31st at 6:00pm

Happy New Year