

## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Promises Kept  
December 29 & 30, 2018

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### AS WE GATHER

Simeon and Anna rejoiced when Mary and Joseph brought week-old Jesus to the temple. He was physical proof that God was keeping His promises made centuries ago. Firstborn males had to be consecrated to God because He had spared them at the time of the exodus. In our Psalm today, God promises redemption for His people, and in Christ we are His chosen people, holy and dearly loved, as Paul writes in the Epistle. Today is the Sunday after Christmas, and we focus on how we exhibit love, forgiveness, and peace, thanking God for His promises kept.

### WELCOME

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.”  
Isaiah 60:1,3

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING 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.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Heavenly Father, although you have called us as your own people, dearly loved, we confess that we have failed to forgive one another as you have forgiven us. We have neglected to reflect your love at home, school, and work. We have let discord and conflict drown out the peace that you have given us in Christ. We have failed to thank you for your great love in our private prayers and with our outward words and actions. Forgive us for Jesus’ sake, and guide us by your Holy Spirit so that our lives may reflect the love with which you surround us by grace each day.**

Pastor: Rejoice! By God’s love, He gives us forgiveness as a gift for the sake of His Son, whose birth we celebrate. The Holy Spirit clothes us with the very compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience the Father expects. 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. Freely have you received God’s love; freely give it as a gift to all you meet.

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: 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.

**People: Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **✠ WORD ✠**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15* (Every firstborn Israelite male must be redeemed, remembering the exodus.) The LORD said to Moses, “Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.” Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, “When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’s. Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Colossians 3:12–17* (“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”)

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything

together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **10:30 CHOIR ANTHEM** “*All is Well*” Smith/Larson

(Rise)

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

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 2:22–40* (Simeon and Anna praise God when they see the baby Jesus in the temple.) And 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 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” 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. 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. 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, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 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 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” 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, 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. 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. And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Be seated)

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### SERMON HYMN #924 "Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"

Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, Your love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us; O refresh us, Trav'ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration For Your Gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of Your salvation In our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful To Your truth may we be found.

Savior, when Your love shall call us From our struggling pilgrim way.  
Let not fear of death appall us, Glad Your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever Reign with You in endless day.

SERMON                      *"The Blessed Song of Simeon"*                      Luke 2:22-40

(Rise)

### 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.

(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: As we continue to rejoice in God's gracious gift of a Savior, let us approach His throne of Grace with confidence that He will hear and answer our prayers. 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. Bless our Together in Mission Partners, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family as well as Rachel Meyer.

**People: As we share your love and truth, encourage sons and daughters to consider your call to work as servants 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 them in all things, but especially in bringing them to Baptism and nurturing them in faith.

**People: Bind us to you day by day, and as you kept Simeon and Anna strong in faith, give to all your people 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: May His peace rule in our hearts with thanksgiving for all your gifts.**

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, so that your Church is filled with joyful songs until we join in the everlasting song of eternity.

**Pastor:** Father in heaven, bless, encourage, and strengthen those who care for elderly parents, disabled children, and other loved ones in their lives. Grant them times of respite and refreshment and surround them with others who support them in their calling.

**People:** Grant them to know that you are mindful of their sacrificial service and that you are with them always.

**Pastor:** God, our King, you rule the nations of the world, providing government to oppose injustice and oppression. Give wisdom and truth to all who rule this land, that they may serve faithfully to promote all that is good and right and prevent and punish evil.

**People:** Wherever our courts or laws are unjust and contrary to your will, reform them for your mercy's sake.

**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 Nancy, Don, Barbara, Larry, Marge, Dolores, Bob, Herb, Cliff, Cindy, LuEva, Arlene, Dick, Nancy, Shirley, Gladys, Russ, John, Arlene, Jack, Shirley, Jonathan, Leonard and Sarah.

**People:** Grant healing, relief from pain and a peaceful spirit to these, your children, 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, trusting His promises and assured of forgiveness.

**People:** Fill our hearts with the joy of salvation and open our lips to proclaim your goodness day by day.

**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 #373 "See Amid the Winter's Snow"

See amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below,  
See, the gentle Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years.

**Refrain** Hail, O ever-blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Lo, within a stable lies He who built the starry skies,  
He who, throned in height sublime, Sits amid the cherubim. **Refrain**

Sacred Infant, all divine, What a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss Down to such a world as this! **Refrain**

Teach, O teach us, holy Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble Thee In Thy sweet humility. **Refrain**

### HYMN #700 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down!  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast;  
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.  
Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,  
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav'n we take our place  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

### **HYMN #381 "Let Our Gladness Have No End"**

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

**Refrain**     *On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us;  
Christ, His Son, to save us.*

Prophesied in days of old, alleluia!  
God has sent Him as foretold, alleluia! **Refrain**  
See, the loveliest blooming rose, alleluia!  
From the branch of Jesse grows, alleluia! **Refrain**  
Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia!  
He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia! **Refrain**

### **COMMON DISMISSAL**

#### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. Grant, O Lord, that what we have received with our lips  
we keep with pure hearts and be strengthened to share in loving  
words and actions each day until we join saints and angels with you  
in eternity; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who gave the gift of His  
Son, the Son who gave us the gift of eternal life, and the Holy Spirit  
who gives us to one another in love—bless you and keep you, now  
and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve our loving Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### **CLOSING HYMN #388 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"**

**Refrain**     *Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. **Refrain**

The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**

Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

Preacher & Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist

Choir Director

Pastor Harold Bender

Debbie Ulbing, Laurel Privatt, Melissa Leon

Olivia Kukor, Ashton Portiz, Riley Zacharias

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