

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Slave or Heir
December 30 & 31, 2017
5:00pm & 9:00am

AS WE GATHER

Not only has the Lord come to a manger in Bethlehem, but now He has also come to His own temple in Jerusalem. The building that itself was to be a sign of God's presence among His people now becomes the very place where Jesus is presented to the Lord. Promised for centuries, salvation has come, and all nations shall see the glory of the Lord. As Simeon beholds this glory in the face of Jesus Christ, he embraces redemption in his arms. Through the Word you will hear and the Supper you will receive today, you, too, will embrace Christ and His saving work. Sing of His glory! God has come to you!

WELCOME

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,
born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as sons.

(Galatians 4:4-5, ESV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING 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!

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: According to the Lord's own Word, let us come before Him.

People: Our eyes shall see the salvation He has prepared for us.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

People: and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Pastor: Let us join together and confess our sins to God, our Father:

People: Lord God, heavenly Father, we acknowledge that we have not walked according to your commands. Our words and actions have not reflected the light of your presence in our lives. We have stumbled and fallen in the darkness. In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, we ask for your forgiveness. Cleanse our hearts and minds with His mercy, and scatter the darkness of our sin with the brightness of His righteousness. Amen.

Pastor: Your merciful Father has sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem you who are under the law, so that you might be adopted into His family and freed by His forgiveness. As a called and ordained servant of God's Son, Jesus 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #387

"Joy to the World"

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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

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

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 61:10–62:3* (The nations shall see the Lord's righteousness.) I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

EPISTLE *Galatians 4:4–7* (God sent forth His Son to redeem us.)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive

adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

CHOIR ANTHEM (9:00) *"Lord, You Left Your Throne"*

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:22–40* (Jesus is presented to the Lord at 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.

(Be seated)

SERMON 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.

SERMON "Slave or Heir?" **Galatians 4:1-7**

(Rise)

APOSTLES' 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: The fullness of time has come, God has sent forth His Son to redeem us.
Therefore, with confidence that He will hear us, let us pray to the Lord.
Father in heaven, we give thanks for all those who have received adoption
as sons and have been made members of your eternal family.

**People: Bless us to rejoice in all that you have done for us, to continue to grow
in faith and to spread the good news of Jesus.**

Pastor: Lord of the church, we pray for all the congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod along with Christian congregations everywhere, praying that you would make them places where righteousness and praise sprout up.

People: Bless mission work around the world, especially be with Pastor Chuck Ferry and family as they serve in Indonesia and Asia and Rachel Meyer as she prepares to serve in Uganda.

Pastor: Compassionate Lord, we pray for those who struggle with regret and guilt over sin, especially those who have terminated a pregnancy, that they would find deliverance, hope, and peace in your grace and forgiveness.

People: Bless them to live daily as your children, walking in the light of your love.

Pastor: Lord of the nations, we pray for our nation, praying for wise leaders who would serve the common good with wisdom and integrity.

People: Guide and direct the leaders of all nations, that they would serve the causes of justice and peace.

Pastor: God of healing and hope, we pray for the sick, the suffering, the lonely and all who call upon you in their time of need, praying especially for Pat, Cliff, Jerry, Dee, Dan, Manley, Debbie, Pat, Charles, Ruth, Shirley, Gladys, Herb, Matthew, Russ, Arlene, Dorothy, John, Arlene, LuEva, Jean, Jack, Shirley, Jonathan, Helen, Leonard and Sarah. Hear their cries and heal their afflictions.

People: Grant them also relief, companionship and patience to endure in the face of trials.

Pastor: Lord of love, we pray for those who commune at the altar today, that they would sincerely repent of sin, trust in your grace, and depart from the table in peace.

People: Fill them also with the knowledge that they have seen and tasted the salvation of the Lord in His Holy Supper.

Pastor: Comforting Lord, we pray for those who mourn and those who are remembering their loved ones who have died in the faith, asking that they would find comfort in the communion of saints.

People: Grant them always to look forward to the promise of the resurrection of the body and the life that never ends.

Pastor: Almighty God, we commend to you 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 (sung to the tune of the *Coventry Carol*)

O Christ, our Lord, the Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us.
O Lamb who takes away our sin,
Grant us Your love and 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 #628 "Your Table I Approach"

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.

Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
a contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

HYMN #393 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, Angels singing, Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

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**

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another, ever reflecting to all the nations the light of your glory and peace; 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: According to the Lord's own Word, we have come before Him.

People: Our eyes have seen the salvation He has prepared for us.

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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING 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***

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Organist

Choir Director 9:00

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Pastor Harold Bender

Ben Reinhardt, Rachel Osell

Michelle Prince

Nancy Hoelke