

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

In My Father's House

January 3 & 4, 2015

AS WE GATHER

Jesus was missing. Mary and Joseph were frantically searching for Him. They found Him in the temple, and He said to them, "Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" This incident is the only report we get in the Scriptures about Jesus at age twelve—and He is in His Father's house. What would we say about our twelve-year-olds today? Facebook posts about athletic and academic accomplishments? Worries about their futures? While accomplishments are important and concerns for the future are legitimate, even more important is to be present in our Father's house. For here we receive the Father's gifts: Baptism, God's pledge to us to never leave nor forsake us; the good Word that takes us down a notch when we are prideful and lifts us up when we are disheartened; the body and blood of Christ for forgiveness and life. Athletic and academic achievements are great and are a sign of young people using the gifts God has given them. Even more important for youth and people of all ages are the gifts given and received only in the Father's house. How wonderful it is to be in our Father's house today, amid our sometimes frantic lives!

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)

✠ 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 and OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Gathered in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit, thanks be to God!

People: How sweet are the Lord's words to our taste!

Pastor: We enter our Father's house this day with praise to Him on our lips and in our hearts.

People: The LORD's words are sweeter than honey to our mouths!

Pastor: The LORD teaches us with words of wonder.

**People: He guides us with His precepts and keeps our feet on the right path.
Thanks be to God!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us 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 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: In Christ, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. 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.

Refrain *This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.
Refrain

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, your wisdom is worth more than all the riches in the world. Help us to seek your wisdom every day of our lives, that we may grow in knowing Christ and in living according to your Word; 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.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *1 Kings 3:4–15* (Solomon asks for wisdom to rule his people.) The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. "Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your

servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for--both riches and honor--so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life." Then Solomon awoke--and he realized it had been a dream. He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 1:3–14*

(He has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in

him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

8:00 CHOIR ANTHEM

"One Flame"

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:40–52* (Jesus remains behind at the temple.)

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #410

"Within the Father's House"

Within the Father's house The Son has found His home,
And to His temple suddenly The Lord of life has come.

The doctors of the Law Gaze on the wondrous child
And marvel at His gracious words Of wisdom undefiled.

Yet not to them is giv'n The mighty truth to know,
To lift the earthly veil that hides Incarnate God below.

The secret of the Lord Escapes each human eye,
And faithful pond'ring hearts await The full epiphany.

Lord, visit Thou our souls And teach us by Thy grace
Each dim revealing of Thyself With loving awe to trace.

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

SERMON

"Where Do You Find Jesus?"

Luke 2:40-52

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS 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)

PRAYER 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, even at a young age, your Son knew that he had to be in your house, the temple in Jerusalem, growing in wisdom and fulfilling your will.

People: **Move all your children to see the importance of gathering in your holy house each week, to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus and to be empowered to do your will.**

Pastor: King of all creation, you rule over your kingdom with wisdom and knowledge that surpasses all human understanding. Share that same wisdom and discretion with the leaders of this world, that they might efficiently and effectively lead those entrusted to their care.

People **Grant to them the ability to discern between good and evil and to work for the benefit of all people.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you have adopted us into your family in the waters of Holy Baptism and made us to be your beloved children. As your children, you have made us holy and blameless by the blood of Christ on the cross.

People: Lavish upon us your love, that we might be your faithful family of believers, share that amazing love with others, and live as your children now and always.

Pastor: O Father in heaven, we pray your countless blessings upon all who have been given the difficult but amazing responsibility of being a parent. Bless all parents with a measure of your patience and mercy as they train their children in the ways of righteousness.

People: Guide and empower all parents to be godly parents, but especially be with single parents and adoptive parents as they raise their children to your glory and honor.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, you teach us daily through your powerful Word. Be with all students of the faith, especially those preparing for confirmation as they learn more about you in your Word and in the catechism.

People: Grant wisdom, understanding and joy to all who read and learn more about you and the mighty deeds that you have done for us.

Pastor: Lord of the harvest, we pray for you to send out and bless all those who work in the harvest fields of the world, sharing the word of life and salvation. We pray especially for Pastor Chuck Ferry and family as they serve you in Indonesia.

People: Guard and protect all those in the mission field and fill them with zeal for the lost, that many more may be brought to saving faith in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: Lord God, you are the Great Physician and healer of your people. Be with all of those who are sick or hospitalized this day especially Shirley, Marion, Dennis, Jack, Virginia, Dolores, Ginger, Gretchen, Mark, Richard, Lois and Sarah. Support them with your tender care and mercy.

People: Bless all doctors, nurses and medical professionals, that they might work diligently and faithfully to the betterment of your people.

Pastor: Holy God, you welcome us into your house to hear your Word and partake in your Sacraments. Grant us to believe evermore that in the body and blood of Jesus Christ we receive the New Covenant of

forgiveness, life, and salvation.

People: Receive us as guests at your Table this day, that repenting of all our sins we would receive the peace of sins forgiven and the strength to live as your people.

Pastor: Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 #358 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" Stanzas 1-5, 13-15

"From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Where-of I now will say and sing.

"To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.

"This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.

"He will on you the gifts bestow; Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us His glory share.

“These are the signs that you shall mark: The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid By whom the heav’ns and earth were made.”

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.

My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

Glory to God in highest heav’n, Who unto us His Son had giv’n!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

HYMN #395 “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God’s own truth and light,
A-glow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob’s race, King David’s son,
Our Lord and master, You have won Our hearts to serve You only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, All victorious,
Rich in blessing! Rule and might o’er all possessing!

Come, heav’nly Bridegroom, Light divine, And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying! In Your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree, Your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily Earth’s deep sadness May perplex us
And distress us, Yet with heav’nly joy You bless us.

Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure, Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heav’nly food. You are our dearest treasure!
Let Your mercy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
For you teach us God’s own love through You has reached us.

Almighty Father, in Your Son You loved us when not yet begun
Was this old earth’s foundation! Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above: This is Your great salvation.
Alleluia! Christ the living, To us giving
Life forever, Keeps us Yours and fails us never!

O let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly blending! For Christ goes with us all the way –
Today, tomorrow, ev’ry day! His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation!
Tell the story! Great is He, the King of Glory!

That joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning! He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness!
We are yearning For the day of Your returning!

HYMN #686 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I’ve come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand’ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I’m constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand’ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the bloodwashed linen, How I’ll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom’d soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: God of wisdom and understanding, who sent your only-begotten Son as the embodiment of your wisdom for the world, we thank you that amidst this confusing world you provide for us the gifts of Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. We pray that you bless us with the wisdom and knowledge of Christ, so that we may be a blessing in this wisdom-starved world; 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 have been blessed with every spiritual blessing. You have been adopted as children of God through Jesus Christ. You have redemption through the blood of Christ. You have an inheritance in Christ that can never perish, spoil, or fade. You are called, therefore, to live to the praise of His glory. 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 #390 "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"

Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.

To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes W may reign in gladness.

We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.

Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us.

Preacher	Pastor Harold Bender
Liturgist	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Lectors	Jodi Drew, Laurel Privatt, John Ficken
Acolytes	Josh Elmer, Ben Leiser, Madeline Matusewic
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller
Choir Director	Nancy Hoelke