

# FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 27, 2020

Bethlehem Lutheran Church      Hermiston, Oregon  
Christ Alone Lutheran Church      Lone, Oregon



## CALL TO WORSHIP

John 1:14, Isaiah 60:1 & 3, Isaiah 9:6

L: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory,

**C: glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

L: 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 rising.

**C: For to us a Child is born,  
to us a Son is given,  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder.**

L: And His name shall be called

**C: Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.**

L: Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end.

## HYMN #379 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

## THE CONFESSION OF SINS

Philippians 2:7-8 NIV

L: We confess, Almighty God, that like lost sheep we have erred and strayed from Your ways.

**C: We have followed the desires of our own hearts.**

**We have offended You by disobeying Your laws.**

**We have fallen short of Your expectations and demands.**

L: We have not done that which we ought to have done; and we have done that which we ought not to have done.

**C: In the midst of this assembly I confess to You that I am a sinner.**

L: During the Christmas season it is wholly appropriate that we acknowledge that it was because of our sin that Jesus "made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death,

**C: even death on a cross!"**

*We pause to reflect on our sin AND on the Lord's mercy*

L: O Lord, have mercy;

**C: O Christ, have mercy;**

**O Lord, have mercy.**

L: Lord, spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

**C: And grant, for His sake, that we may live sober, upright,  
and godly lives,  
to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

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## ABSOLUTION

**L:** I have good news for you!

Jesus, the Son of Mary and the Son of God has heard your confession. I tell you the truth, your wrongs have been erased forever from your record – you are forgiven and free!

**C: Thanks be to God! Amen!**

## THE PSALM

Psalm 111

**L:** Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,

**C: in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

**L:** Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.

He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;

the LORD is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear Him;

**C: He remembers His covenant forever.**

**L:** He has shown His people the power of His works,  
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy;  
they are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.

**C: Holy and awesome is His name!**

**L:** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.

**C: His praise endures forever!**

## COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

**L:** 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.

**C: Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

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. <sup>11</sup>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.

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

Isaiah 9:6 & Psalm 98:1

**To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given;  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder.  
And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!**

## EPISTLE LESSON

Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

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

**C:** Glory to You, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>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, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup>"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>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 <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup>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, <sup>37</sup>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. <sup>38</sup>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.

<sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

**L:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise to You, O Christ.

## SERMON HYMN #389 "Let All Together Praise Our God"

## SERMON

## OFFERING

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

### LORD'S PRAYER sung to: "Away in a Manger"

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, all praise to Your name!  
Your King-dom a-mong us, Your will done the same  
By mor-tals and an-gels. Come, Lord, reign a-lone:  
Oh, hear us and bless us From heav-en's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for pro-vide us each day;  
As we for-give o-thers, our sins take a-way;  
In times of tempt-a-tion, to lead us be near;  
From e-vil de-liv-er Your child-ren most dear.

For Yours is the King-dom; o'er all things You reign.  
And Yours is the pow-er; all things You main-tain.  
To You be the glo-ry, re-sound-ing a-gain  
From all of cre-a-tion, For-ev-er! A-men!

### BENEDICTION 2 Corinthians 13:14

**L:** May the grace of the ✠ Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: Amen**

### HYMN "Greet Now the Swiftly Changing Year" sung to: "Lift Up Your Heads You Mighty Gates"

Greet now the swiftly changing year  
With joy and penitence sincere.  
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace  
Another year of God's own grace.  
Remember now the Son of God  
And how He shed His infant blood.  
Rejoice, with thanks embrace,  
Another year of grace!

This Jesus came to end sin's war;  
This Name of names for us He bore,  
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace  
Another year of God's own grace.  
His love abundant far exceeds  
The volume of a whole year's needs.  
Rejoice, with thanks embrace,  
Another year of grace.

With Him as Lord to lead our way  
In want and in prosperity,  
What need we fear in earth or space,  
In this new year of God's own grace?  
God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear!  
To all our pleas incline Your ear;  
Upon our lives here trace,  
Another year of grace.

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