

The Divine Service

The First Sunday After Christmas

December 27, 2020

AS WE GATHER

Today is not an "O Holy Night." (Actually, December 27th on the Christian calendar is St. John the Evangelist Day) Yet, as that stirring anthem sings it, our weary world rejoices. Weary? No doubt! Rejoicing? Absolutely! So said the Angel: "Behold, I bring you good news of great joy for all the people!" Just what our weary world needs!

Call to Worship / Check In

Words of Welcome / Theme of the Day

Invocation

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the (✝) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

Confession and Absolution

Leader: People redeemed by the Lord, let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

People: **Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of having sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not lived our lives fully in the freedom won for us by our Lord. We have not always shared the bounty You have given us as stewards of Your creation. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus, our Savior. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.**

Leader: God has promised pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son, who has replaced slavery to sin with a priceless inheritance of freedom and joy. As a servant of Christ, I assure you of the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (✝) Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

People: **Amen.**

Processional Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

LSB 367. Verses 1,3,5



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
△ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Ye have seen His na - tal star.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Greeting

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

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. 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.**

The Old Testament

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Reader: ¹⁰I 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. ¹¹For 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. ¹For 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. ²The 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. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Galatians 4:4-7

Reader: ⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:8-14

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day "Let All Together Praise Our God" LSB 389 verses 1,3,7



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
 3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
 Δ 7 Your grace in low - li - ness re - vealed, Lord Je - sus,



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
 at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
 we a - dore And praise to God the Fa - ther yield And



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
 splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
 Spir - it ev - er - more; We praise You ev - er - more.

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Sermon "A Weary World Rejoices"

Pastor Tim Hartner

Apostles' Creed

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Petitions end, "Lord in your mercy" Congregation responds, "Hear Our Prayer"

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

4 People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gathering of Gifts

Offertory Prayer

Leader: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Announcements

Benediction

Recessional Verse "We Praise You, O God"

LSB 785



1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.
And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;
When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,
With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.



We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Dismissal

Pastor: Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....

People: Disciples making disciples.

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School for children and Youth at 9:45 AM—Via Zoom

Adult Bible Study in person or livestreamed at 10:00 AM