

**First Sunday after Christmas
December 27, 2020
East Central Synod of Wisconsin**

Gathering

Welcome

Call to Worship

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.
By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.
Jesus is the light of our lives.

**Sing to God a new song!
A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

Song ***“Angels from the Realms of Glory” (verses 1-2)***

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 61:10;62:3

Scripture Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

Sermon

Bishop Anne Edison-Albright

Prayers

Let us pray for the church, the world and all those in need.

Sending God, make us agents of your transforming power and heralds of your reign of justice and peace, that all may share in the healing Christ brings.

Empowered by your Spirit, grant us the courage we need to journey, trust, listen, speak, and accept your commission to be your faithful servant people. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your glory is shown forth in all the marvels of your creation. Teach us to enjoy creation's beauty and show us ways to be caretakers of these wonders you have entrusted to us. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, Your Son came as the Prince of Peace and brought a message of Peace for all people. Help us to be peacemakers in our homes, at our work, in our schools and wherever we meet people, so that the peace and goodwill of Christmas can find a place in the hearts of all people. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, there are so many who are suffering in this world, suffering from discrimination, oppression and violence. Make us agents of mercy and justice finding ways to make Christ known to those who are desperate for a word of hope. Give us courage to stand with those who are treated unfairly and work for equality and fair treatment for all people. Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, we pray for friends and family who are ill and remember them in the quietness of our hearts (*pause*). We bring these people to you in the confidence that you love them and know their every need. Bless all that is being done for their recovery granting wisdom and skill to all those who care for them. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God, we thank you for the generations of your faithful people who have passed along their faith to us, shining your light into our lives. Fill us with your Spirit that we may share our faith and hope in you with others that you may work through us to draw people close to you. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, spoken and unspoken, and give to us all that we need to live out our days as faithful and sent disciples. In the name of your Son we pray. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
The obedience of Joseph,
The joy of the angels,
The eagerness of the shepherds,
The determination of the magi
And the peace of the Christ child.
Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Song

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Stewardship Moment

*Thank you to St John Lutheran Church in De Pere
for providing the music for this Christmas worship.*