



Second Sunday after Christmas

January 3, 2021

Streams of Grace

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Winchester, Virginia

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God to worship.

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Greensleeves

Ricard Purvis

GATHERING HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

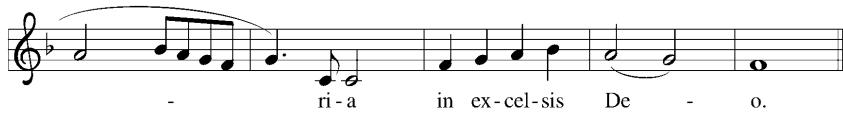
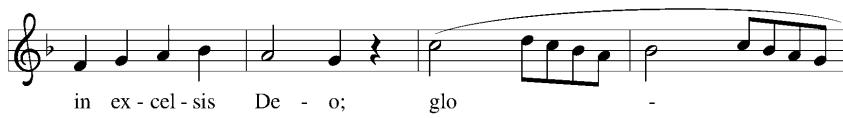
ELW # 289



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷Thus says the Lord:

 Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
 and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
 proclaim, give praise, and say,
 “Save, O Lord, your people,
 the remnant of Israel.”

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
 and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
 among them the blind and the lame,
 those with child and those in labor, together;
 a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
 and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
 in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
 and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
 and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,
 and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

¹¹For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
 and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the Lord.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:12-20

¹²Worship the Lord, | O Jerusalem; praise your | God, O Zion,
¹³**who has strengthened the bars | of your gates**
 and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.
¹⁴God has established peace | on your borders
 and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.
¹⁵**God sends out a command | to the earth,**
 a word that runs | very swiftly.
¹⁶God gives | snow like wool,
 scattering | frost like ashes.
¹⁷**God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.**
 Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?
¹⁸The Lord sends forth the | word and melts them;
 the wind blows, and the | waters flow.
¹⁹**God declares the | word to Jacob,**
 statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.
²⁰The Lord has not done so to any | other nation;
 they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah!

GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

The Rev. Jonathan M. Boynton

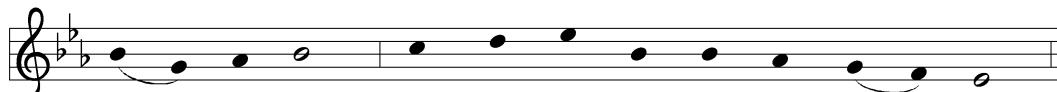
HYMN OF THE DAY

Of the Father's Love Begotten

ELW # 295



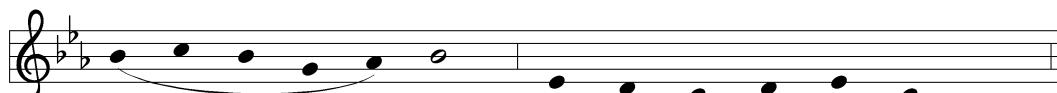
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'r's, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom-ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Gracious God, at the beginning of this new year we give thanks for the gift of your presence among us to heal and to save. You gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with your goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory, and embody your love for the world you have created. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Give consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness, especially *Mary, Vicki, Bob, Jim, Ellen, Jan, Laura, Alexis, Trent, Morgan, Doris, Chris, Sheila, Karen, John, Fred, Wendy, Donna, Diane, Jane, Barbara, Polly, Bill, Brian, Shawn, Mike, Tim, David, Jeff, Shawn, Bobbie, Linda, Guy, Mary Kathryn, Wilma, Chet, Doug, Jay, Tara, Janice, Rich, David, Carolyn, Robin, Rusty, Carly, Sheila, Sandi, Mike, Pete, Marilee, Jandee, Jim, Michael, Patty, Dorothy, Walker, Valerie, Leah, Betsy, Charles, Charlie and family, Paul*, all affected by COVID-19, and those we name now....Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all whose work has provided vaccines for COVID-19, and the hope it gives us for the future. We pray for protection, courage and strength for all who work on the front lines of the pandemic to care for others even at risk to themselves, as medical personnel, first responders, chaplains, and all caregivers, especially for *Dick, Scott, Lisa, Sheila, Rick, Julie, Dixie, Courtney, Nikki, Patty, Chris, Xavier, Cheryl, Cee Ann, Eileen, Joe, Patrick, Linda, Sheila, Joe, Christie, Maurade, Vicki, Cathy, Steve, Christopher, Christa, Becky, Gail, Deanna, Bill, Shanthi, Stephen, Anna, Ron, Becky, Alexis, Jim, and Keith*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the men and women of our armed forces, especially those who are away from home for the holidays, and their families. We commend them to your gracious care and keeping, especially *Seth, Ben, Brian, Brett, Chip, Stuart, Andrew, Corey, Elizabeth, Ellen, Mitra, Tyler, Kristjan, Brandon, Ted, Christine, Alex, Danny, Ron, Cassie, Scott, Ben, and Pastor Nate*.....Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. We pray for comfort for all whose loved ones have died, especially the family and friends of *Violet Russo*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

Offering and Offertory

O Holy Night

Vocal Solo, Sherrie Bloomfield

The inclusion of the offering during digital worship is a reminder of the faithful and generous gifts given on-line or by U.S. Mail. To make a gift electronically you may scan the QR code. Checks may be made payable to the church and mailed to: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 26 W. Boscawen Street, Winchester, VA 22601.



SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

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.**



DISMISSAL

Christ, the Lord, is born! Go in peace, Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN

The Bells of Christmas

ELW # 298



1 Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer
 2 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly
 2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly
 3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled
 4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our



for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve
 guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly
 find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a
 babe with shew - herds find, to gaze on him who
 Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from



hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.
 dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
 man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.
 glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.
 lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Variations on a Postlude

PRESIDER

Martha Miller Sims, Pastor

PREACHER

Jonathan M. Boynton, Pastor

ORGANIST

Mark Lindgren

LECTOR

Joe Dame

INTERCESSORY PRAYER LEADER

Sara Power

DIGITAL TECHNICIANS

Pastor George L. Sims

Pastor Jonathan M. Boynton

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The Bells of Christmas. Text and music: Public Domain. Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872, tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823-1883. Music: Carl C. N. Balle, 1806-1855.

Voluntaries: Greensleeves, by Ricard Purvis. Oxford University Press, Oxford, England. Used by permission, One License # A-701534. *Variations on a Postlude.* Public Domain. Arr. Mark Lindgren

Anthem: *O Holy Night.* Text and music: Public Domain.

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 is the Epiphany of Our Lord. On this day the church celebrates the coming of the Magi to visit the new king, Jesus. We will be joining with the Virginia Synod for an Epiphany Evening Prayer service on Zoom:



The Virginia Synod is hosting an Epiphany Evening Prayer service on Zoom.

Plan to join us on January 6, 2021, at 7:00 PM LIVE on Zoom.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 835 0408 1651

Passcode: Epiphany

If Dialing in, please use the following meeting

ID and Passcode: **Meeting ID:** 835 0408 1651; **Passcode:** 02695477



Next Sunday, January 10, 2021, is Baptism of Our Lord. The readings are: Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7 and Mark 1:4-11.