

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

537 Grand Avenue

Billings, Montana

First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2020

Worship: 10:00 a.m.

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AS WE GATHER

The Epistle for the First Sunday after Christmas brings a one-sentence summary of the Christmas message as Paul writes it to the Christians of Galatia. “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son” (Galatians 4:4). God knew the exact right time for His beloved Son to come to earth, this sin-filled world. God had a plan for salvation that was carried out faithfully and completely by Jesus. In the days after Christmas, we have the opportunity to reflect on the importance of the Christmas message. We have received the greatest of all gifts. Through Jesus Christ, we are heirs of God and have an eternal inheritance!

A Statement of Our Practice of Close Communion

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths His very Body and Blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. Our Lord invites to His table those who are repentant and trust Him for salvation. Because those who partake of Holy Communion unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith, which is confessed at this altar, any who are not members of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to speak with the pastor. Visitors who have previously spoken with the pastor, and who received permission to commune, do not need to seek permission for subsequent visits to our altar.

Prayer before communing:

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your Holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament:

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament. I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

DIVINE SERVICE

(Setting Three — pg. 184)

Opening Hymn 368 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

**Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song?
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

+ Service of the Word +

Introit



The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the | nations,*
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation | of our God.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for
him.

The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of
| Israel.*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*

break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

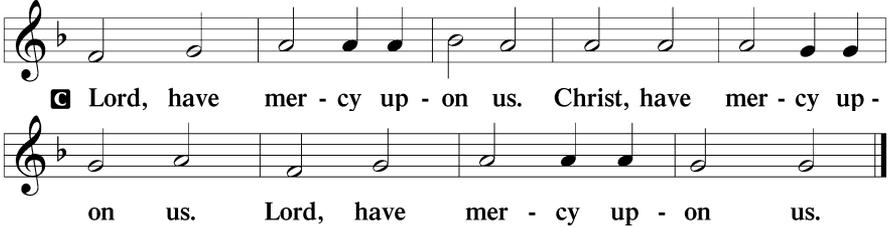
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the | nations,*
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation | of our God.

Kyrie



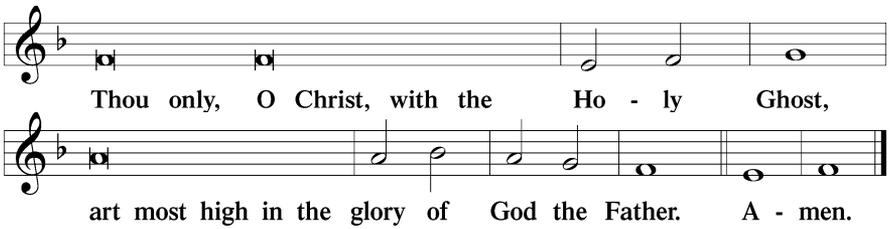
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P: 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.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴But when 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now 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. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And 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, ²⁸he took him up in his

arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

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

³⁶And 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, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And 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.

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

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again

according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

Hymn of the Day 389 “Let All Together Praise Our God”

1. Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav’n again
To give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
2. He leaves His heav’nly Father’s throne, Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall, Lies in a humble stall.
3. Within an earthborn form He hides His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might, The splendor of His might.
4. He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name, His glory, and His name.
5. He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child’s love!
No truer friend than He, No truer friend than He.
6. He is the key and He the door To blessèd paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise, To God our praises rise.
7. Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore; We praise You evermore.

Sermon “Christmas According to St. Paul” Galatians 4:4-7

Prayer of the Church

After each petition, the Pastor will say: "Lord, in Your mercy,"

Congregation response will be: "Hear our prayer."

+ + + **Service of the Sacrament** + + +

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ And with thy spir - it.

P: Lift up your hearts.



☐ We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



☐ It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly good, right, and beneficial . . . evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

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

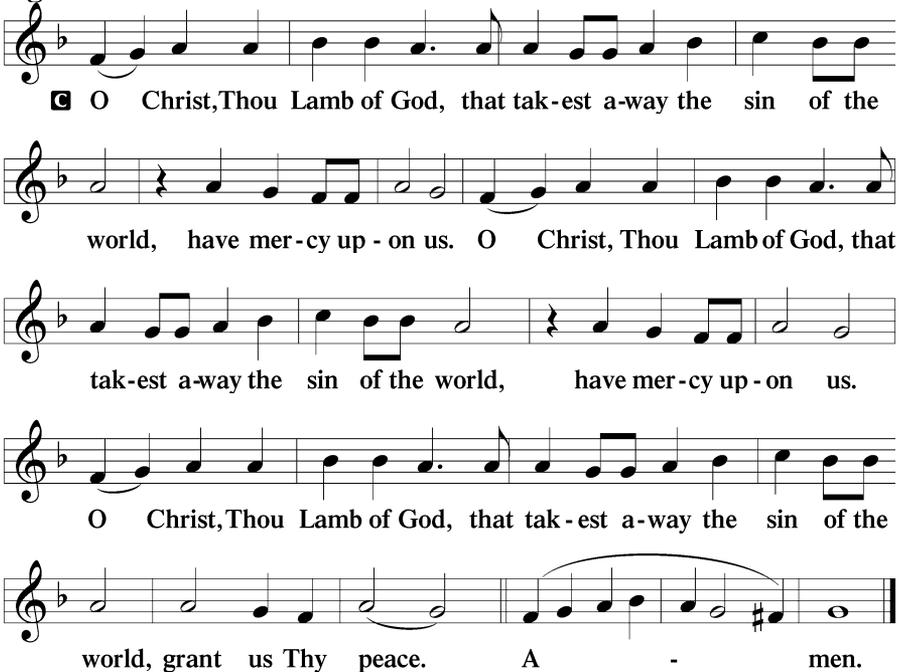
The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Agnus Dei



□ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Distribution Hymns 372 "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is"

1. O Jesus Christ, Thy manger is
My paradise at which my soul reclineth.
For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word
Made flesh for us; herein Thy grace forth shineth.

(Continued on the next page)

2. He whom the sea And wind obey
Doth come to serve the sinner in great meekness.
Thou, God's own Son, With us art one,
Dost join us and our children in our weakness.
3. Thy light and grace Our guilt efface,
Thy heav'nly riches all our loss retrieving.
Immanuel, Thy birth doth quell
The pow'r of hell and Satan's bold deceiving.
4. Thou Christian heart, Whoe'er thou art,
Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee!
For God's own Child, In mercy mild,
Joins thee to Him; how greatly God must love thee!
5. Remember thou What glory now
The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.
The angel host Can never boast
Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.
6. The world may hold Her wealth and gold;
But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true treasure.
To Him hold fast Until at last
A crown be thine and honor in full measure.

563 “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

1. Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
2. Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
3. Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty, Was also shed in love for me.
4. Lord, I believe, were sinners more Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.
5. When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.
6. Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.

392 "God Loves Me Dearly"

1. God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me. *Refrain*

Refrain: Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.

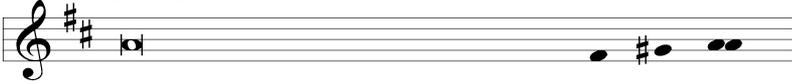
2. I was in slav'ry, Sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working To make me free. *Refrain*
3. He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus And set me free. *Refrain*
4. Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed. *Refrain*
5. Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal;
Now I will praise You All my life long. *Refrain*

Nunc Dimittis

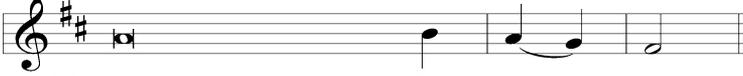


Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

Thanksgiving



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this gracious gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation and Benedicamus



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



A Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P: The Lord, bless you and keep you.

The Lord, make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord, lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Sending Hymn

375 “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”

(Stzs. 1, 2, & 6)

1. Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.

2. 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.

6. 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.

All hymns used by permission: no. 1801154.

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PRESIDING:

Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht

LAY MINISTER:

David Jinguji

ACOLYTE:

Jason Arave

ORGANIST:

Dr. Kenneth T. Kosche

SOUND:

Darryl Magnuson

VIDEO:

Logan and Mona Howey

ALTAR DUTY:

Shared Duty

Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

Empowered by the Holy Spirit through His Word and Sacraments, Trinity Lutheran Church and School is committed to preparing people who are being shaped for service, passionately proclaiming the Father’s grace and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.