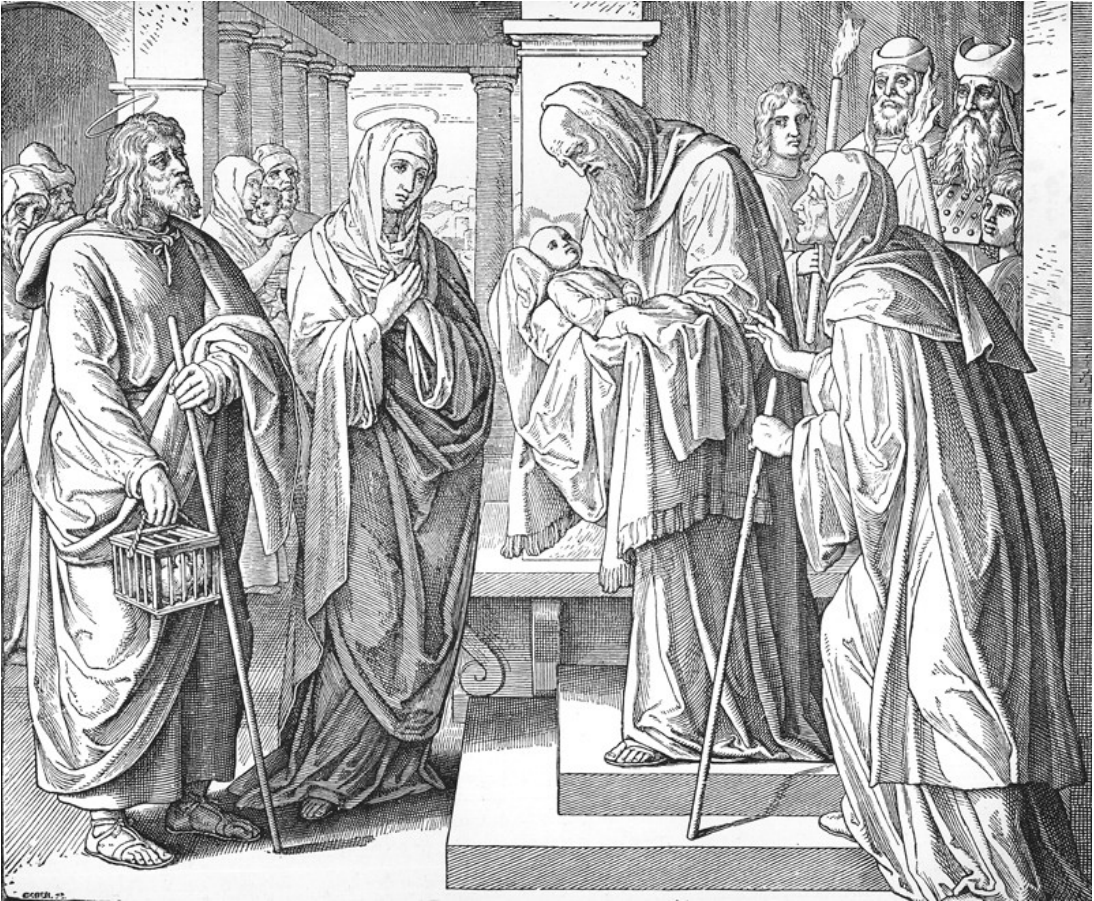


THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 29th, 2024



MARTIN LUTHER
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Louis, MO

Pastor Seth Georgson

314-914-6457

COMMON SERVICE

Hymn ----- Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

CW 42

1. Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing his love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.
2. See how God, for us providing,
Gave his Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding
From earth's woe to heav'nly joy.
3. 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.
4. Jacob's Star in all its splendor
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender,
Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.
5. Gracious Child, we pray you, hear us;
From your lowly manger cheer us.
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join th' angelic choir.

Stand.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.



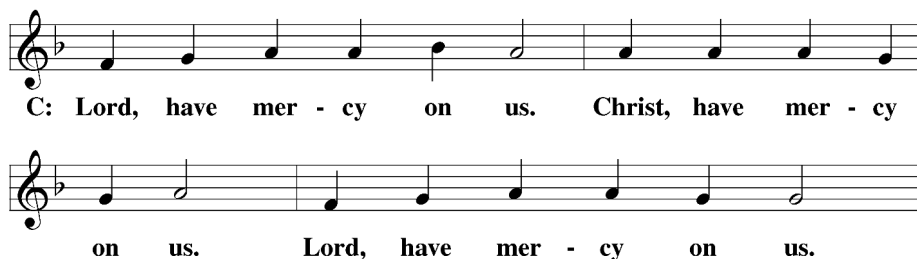
CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie



M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Angels We Have Heard on High (CW 63)

C: 1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
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?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.



M: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son, we may be made to abound in good works; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson ----- Isaiah 11:1–5

A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse,
and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the
LORD.

He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,

nor will he render decisions based on what he
hears with his ears,
but with righteousness he will judge the poor,
and he will render fair decisions in favor of the op-
pressed on the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath from his lips he will put the
wicked to death.

Righteousness will be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

Refrain

I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

Praise the LORD, O my soul;*

all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

He forgives all your sins*

and heals all your diseases;

he redeems your life from the grave*

and crowns you with love and compassion.

Refrain

The LORD is compassionate and gracious*,

slow to anger, abounding in love.

He does not treat us as our sins deserve*

or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,*

so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,*

so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Refrain

As a father has compassion on his children*,

so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

for he knows how we are formed,*

he remembers that we are dust.

Our days are like grass, like a flower of the field;*
the wind blows over it and it is gone.

But the LORD's love is with those who fear him*
from everlasting to everlasting.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Second Lesson ----- Galatians 4:1-7

What I am saying is this: As long as the heir is a young child, he is no different from a slave. Although he is owner of everything, he is still under guardians and managers until the day set by his father. So also, when we were younger children, we were enslaved under the basic principles of the world. But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so

that he would be born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

Verse of the Day

Colossians 3:15

M: Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, to which you were also called, in one body. Alleluia.



Stand.

Gospel ----- Luke 2:33-40

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

Joseph and the child's mother were amazed at the things that were spoken about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Listen carefully, this child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Anna, a prophetess, was there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She had lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, and then she was a

widow of eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple complex, since she was worshipping with fasting and prayers night and day. Standing nearby at that very hour, she gave thanks to the Lord. She kept speaking about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had accomplished everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town, Nazareth. The child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the

right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day ----- Let All Together Praise Our God

CW 41

1. Let all together praise our God Before his highest throne;
Today he opens heav'n again And gives us his own Son,
And gives 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. He veils in flesh his pow'r divine A servant's form to take;
In want and lowliness must die Who heav'n and earth did make,
Who heav'n and earth did make.
4. A wondrous change which he does make: He takes our flesh and blood,
And he conceals for sinners' sake His majesty as God,
His majesty as God.
5. He serves that I a lord may be—A great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love do more for me To help me in my need,
To help me in my need?

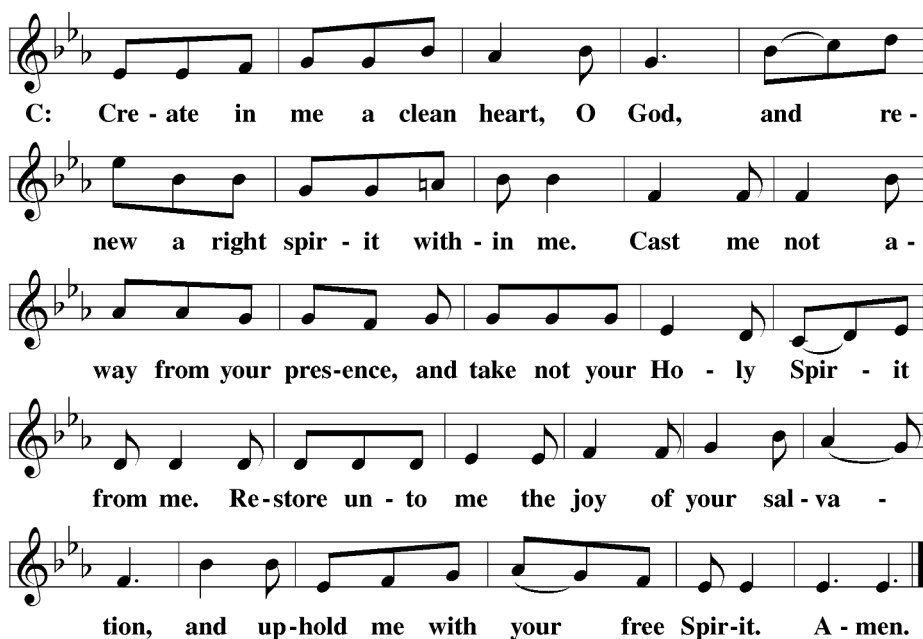
6. For us he opens wide the door Of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more; To God our thanks we pay,
To God our thanks we pay.

Sermon ----- Luke 2:33-40

Under Law, for Those Under Law

Stand.

After the sermon, the congregation sings:



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

Be seated.

Offering

Stand.

Online giving option:
mluther.org/give



Offerings support the spread
of the Gospel here and around the world.

Prayer of the Church

*The minister offers the petitions and the congregation responds with “**Hear our prayer.**”*

- M: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- M: Eternal Lord God, in the fullness of time You sent forth Your Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem us and give us the adoption as Your sons and heirs. Hear us, Father, as we call to You in His name. Give us grace to rejoice in Christ’s blessed incarnation, and grant us a glad new year. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Holy Father, You have adopted us into the divine family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism as sons and heirs. Do not let us return to the slavery of sin, but remain joyful in the salvation and eternal inheritance that is ours in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Almighty God, Your Son alone is judge of the earth, who decides all matters in equity and righteousness. Let us entrust ourselves to Christ and likewise delight in the fear of the Lord. Let us not put our trust in princes and leaders of this world, who must judge by what they see and hear. We pray for their health and wisdom and ask that we may honor them for the sake of conscience before You. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Blessed Lord, help the sick and suffering, especially those who desire our prayers [*including* _____]. Surround them with Your love in Christ and, according to Your gracious will, heal them. Comfort those who mourn, [*especially* _____], and fill their hearts with the certain hope of the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Gracious God, let all who come to the Sacrament of the Altar this day see their salvation in the very body and blood of Christ given them to eat and to drink. Let all return home like blessed Simeon, well prepared to depart in peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: 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 SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your 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 who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei





Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.

During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:

Hymn ----- To Shepherds as They Watched by Night

CW 53

1. To shepherds as they watched by night
Appeared a host of angels bright;
"Behold the tender babe," they said,
"In yonder lowly manger laid,
2. "At Bethlehem, in David's town,
As Micah did of old make known.
It is the Christ, your Lord and King,
Who will to all salvation bring."

3. Oh, then rejoice that through his Son
God is with sinners now at one;
Made like yourselves of flesh and blood,
Your brother is th' eternal God.
4. What harm can sin and death then do?
The true God now abides with you.
Let hell and Satan storm and rave,
Christ is your brother—you are safe.
5. Not one he will or can forsake;
His cov'nant he will never break.
Let ev'ry scheme the tempter try,
You may his utmost pow'rs defy.
6. You shall and must at last prevail.
God's own you are; you cannot fail.
To God forever sing your praise
With joy and patience all your days.

Hymn ----- See in Yonder Manger Low

CW 58

1. See in yonder manger low, Born for us on earth below,
See—the gentle Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years.

Refrain:

Hail the ever blessed morn; Hail redemption's happy dawn;
Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

2. Lo, within a stable lies He who built the starry skies,
He who, throned in height sublime, Sits amid the cherubim. *Refrain*
3. Sacred Infant, all divine, What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss Down to such a world as this. *Refrain*

4. Teach, oh, teach us, holy Child, By thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee In thy sweet humility. *Refrain*

Hymn ----- Your Little Ones Dear Lord Are We

CW 46

1. Your little ones, dear Lord, are we
And come your lowly bed to see;
Enlighten ev'ry soul and mind
That we the way to you may find.
2. With songs we hasten you to greet
And humbly fall before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
That gave you birth, our souls' delight.
3. Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
And to us all your grace accord;
True faith and love to us impart
That we may hold you in our heart,
4. Until at last we, too, proclaim,
With all your saints, your glorious name;
In paradise our songs renew
And praise you as the angels do.

After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:

Song of Simeon

Nunc Dimittis

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



Be seated.

Hymn ----- Go, Tell It on the Mountain

CW 57

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
 Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
 Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. *Refrain*
2. The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
 Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
3. Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born;
 And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

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