

First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024



PRELUDE

WELCOME STATEMENT

PROCESSIONAL *“Jesus, What a Wonderful Child”* ELW 297

GREETING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen.

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In this holy season, we remember the great gift of God's love, revealed in the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and given to us in the waters of baptism. In baptism, we are united with Christ in his death and resurrection.

Through baptism, God calls us into one holy family, lighting the way of salvation and life.

Thanks be to God!

Rejoicing in the birth of our Savior, we give thanks for the waters of baptism that make us partakers of Christ's life. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also celebrate the new birth we have received in him.

Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has shown us the light of salvation through our Savior.

We remember how Jesus himself was baptized by John in the Jordan River, setting an example for us, and how in baptism, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, marked with the cross of Christ forever.

With joy, we give thanks for the gift of baptism, where God calls us by name, claims us as God's own, and pours out God's grace upon us.

As we gather this morning to celebrate Christ's birth, we are reminded that we too are born anew in the waters of baptism. May the grace of this holy sacrament continue to strengthen us in our faith and in our mission together, as we grow into the likeness of Christ and walk in the light of his love.

Shine in us, O Lord, that we may share your light with the world. Amen.

(Assembly is seated.)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of love, **shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH *“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”* ELW 288, Verse 1

(During the hymn, light the white candle ONLY in the center of the wreath.)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

A reading from First Samuel.

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord”; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

young men and maidens, old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from Colossians.

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING*Luke 21:25-36*

The gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

SERMON

Rev. Phillip Potaczek

HYMN OF THE DAY*“Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying”*

ELW 436

PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us affirm our faith through the words of the Nicene Creed.

**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 truly 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
with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe
in one holy catholic 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each prayer petition, please respond:

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Come now and kneel before the Christ child.

Bring all that you are and all that you have.

We offer ourselves in wonder, surprise and awe.

We offer our gifts in joy and delight.

OFFERING

“Bethlehem Highway”

Dakota Road

Chorus

There is hope on Bethlehem highway
For the ones who will journey there
And the hope is a child in a manger
Bringing us love beyond compare

Let the angels go before us
Let the darkness become light
Now the Savior lives among us
Now truth has come to life (Chorus)

It's a lifeline for the needy
It's sight to those who can't see
It's a freedom for the faithful
In a child of prophecy (Chorus)

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, **you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Setting 8, page 190

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Modern Version

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as our Savior taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to know the love of God in Jesus Christ are invited to Holy Communion. Inform a communion assistant if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is located in the center ring of the tray. If you are not receiving the sacrament today, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing.

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Good Good Father”

Anthony Brown

Verse 1

I've heard a thousand stories
Of what they think You're like
But I've heard the tender whisper
Of love in the dead of night
You tell me that You're pleased
And that I'm never alone

Chorus

You're a Good Good Father
It's who You are
It's who You are
It's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am
It's who I am
It's who I am

Verse 2

I've seen many searching for answers
Far and wide
But I know we're all searching for answers
Only You provide
Because You know just what we need
Before we say a word (Chorus)

Verse 3

Love so undeniable I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
Into love love love (Chorus)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

Chorus:

We have seen the Messiah, here for all the world.

We have seen the Messiah, here for all the world.

Shepherds came to see the sight

a baby born to be the light.

Then they went and spread the word,

'cause they had to tell all they had heard. (Chorus)

Mary came with tears of grief

but she found life beyond belief

She found joy where she had hurt

when the risen Lord appeared to her. (Chorus)

Have you seen the aching hearts,

the human hurts, lives torn apart?

When we see the least of these

do we really know who we have seen? (Chorus)

SENDING

Siblings in Christ, our Eucharist has ended. **Now, it must be lived.**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

<p><u>Sunday, December 29, 2024</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: <i>Pearl</i> Ushers: Lector: <i>Sue Williamson</i> Communion Assistants: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> <i>Jane Goetz</i></p> <p>Altar Guild: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Video Tech: Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i></p>	<p><u>Sunday, January 5, 2025</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: <i>Elle</i> Ushers: <i>Jan Beckman</i> Lector: <i>Justin Reed</i> Communion Assistants:</p> <p>Altar Guild: <i>Sally Mathis and Jan Constantine</i> Video Tech: Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i></p>
--	--