

# Second Sunday of Christmas

January 5, 2025

10:15 am

## Prelude

## Introduction

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

## Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

God-with-us, **we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, ✚ forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. **Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn: ELW #300 "The First Noel"

1. **The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

*Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the king of Israel.*

2. **They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.**

*Refrain:*

3. **And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.**

*Refrain:*

**4. This star drew near to the north-west, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay.**

*Refrain:*

**5. Then entered in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.**

*Refrain:*

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## **Prayer of the Day**

**Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## *Readings and Psalms*

### **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 gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

<sup>7</sup>Thus 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."

<sup>8</sup>See, 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.

<sup>9</sup>With 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.

<sup>10</sup>Hear 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."

<sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup>They 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.

<sup>13</sup> Then 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.

<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

## **Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20**

<sup>12</sup> Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem;  
praise your | God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup> **who has strengthened the bars | of your gates  
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**

<sup>14</sup> God has established peace | on your borders  
and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.

<sup>15</sup> **God sends out a command | to the earth,  
a word that runs | very swiftly. R**

<sup>16</sup> God gives | snow like wool,  
scattering | frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup> **God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD sends forth the | word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the | waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> **God declares the | word to Jacob,  
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup> The LORD has not done so to any | other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah! **R**

## **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.*

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

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia.* All the ends <sup>1</sup> of the earth have seen the victory <sup>1</sup> of our God. *Alleluia.* (Ps. 98:3)

## **Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

*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.*

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

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

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

<sup>14</sup>And 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. <sup>15</sup>(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.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn of the Day: ELW #270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

- 1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king: peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies; with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**
- 2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, incarnate deity! Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel! Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**
- 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise each child of earth, born to**

**give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

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## **The Apostle's Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Peace**

### **Offering**

#### **Offering Hymn: ELW #487 "What Feast of Love"**

- 1. What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?  
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given? This, this is  
Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven. Oh, taste and see and  
sing! How sweet the manna given!**

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### **Offering Prayer**

**God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in  
which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless  
now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of  
creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

**God of grace, receive our prayer.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

**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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

## **Thanksgiving at the Table**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

## **Distribution Hymn: ELW #471 "Let Us Break Bread Together"**

- 1. Let us break bread together on our knees. Let us break bread together on our knees.**

*Refrain:* **When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord have mercy on me.**

- 2. Let us drink wine together on our knees. Let us drink wine together on our knees. Refrain**

- 3. Let us praise God together on our knees. Let us praise God together on our knees. Refrain**

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## **Post Communion Blessing**

## Prayer after Communion

**Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.**

## Blessing

The God of love, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn: ELW #396 "Spirit of Gentleness"

*Refrain:* **Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free; Spirit, Spirit of Restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

- 1. You moved on the waters, you called to the deep, then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing; "Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." *Refrain***
- 2. You swept through the dessert, you stung with the sand, and you goaded your people with a law and a land; and when they were blinded with idols and lies, then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. *Refrain***
- 3. You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill, then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still; and down in the city you called once again, when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. *Refrain***
- 4. You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes. From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams; our women see visions, our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise. *Refrain.***

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## Dismissal

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

## Postlude

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## Announcements

✚ **Thank You Pastor Matt Larson** for leading worship today.

✚ Calvary is looking for a volunteer (or volunteers) to represent Calvary on the **Welcome Committee**, which is where Calvary and four other Mankato ELCA churches are sponsoring a family of four from Nicaragua. Ariac and Andrea Cruz and their two boys have been in Minnesota almost two years. This committee meets monthly at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Contact Bob Diesch or Jolene Anderson for more information on the committee.

✚ **Prayers:** Please continue to keep our members and loved ones in your prayers, including Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Vivian, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Chloe, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Paul, Jeannie and Gregg Nelson.

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