

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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The First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023

Divine Service, Setting Three

As We Gather

How much time do we spend waiting? A study by the Timex corporation revealed that the average American spends thirty-eight hours annually waiting in traffic and thirteen hours each year on the telephone waiting for customer service. Waiting is not always easy, but certain kinds of waiting are truly worthwhile. The Gospel for the First Sunday after Christmas takes us to the temple in Jerusalem, where Simeon, a “righteous and devout” man is “waiting for the consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25). And his wait is more than worthwhile. He gets to hold the infant Christ Child and to express his thanks firsthand for the salvation that Jesus will accomplish. The waiting for Simeon was over. God knew the exact right time for His beloved Son to come to earth into this sin-filled world. God had a plan for salvation that was carried out faithfully and completely by Jesus. As we worship, we echo the words of Simeon, thankful that our waiting for Immanuel is over and that we are assured of the salvation brought by Jesus, the one for whom Simeon was waiting so patiently.

384 Of the Father’s Love Begotten



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 O ye 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’rs, 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 - end - ing 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: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348-c. 413; (sts. 1-4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821-77  
Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Confession and Absolution

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**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** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 52:10*

**P** 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.

**C** 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.

**P** The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;\*  
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

**C** 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.

**P** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;\*  
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

**C** 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.

**P** 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.

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

## 387 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**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** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 61:10–62:3*

**R** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 61.

<sup>10</sup>I 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.

<sup>11</sup>For 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.

<sup>1</sup>For 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.

<sup>2</sup>The 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.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### 519 In His Temple Now Behold Him



1 In His tem - ple now be - hold Him, See the long - ex -  
 2 In the arms of her who bore Him, Vir - gin pure, be -  
 3 Je - sus, by Your pre - sen - ta - tion, When they blessed You,



pect - ed Lord; An - cient proph - ets had fore - told Him,  
 hold Him lie While His a - ged saints a - dore Him  
 weak and poor, Make us see Your great sal - va - tion,



God has now ful - filled His word. Now to praise Him,  
 Ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Seal us with Your prom - ise sure; And pre - sent us



His re - deem - ed Shall break forth with one ac - cord.  
 al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!  
 in Your glo - ry To Your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.

Text: Henry J. Pye, c. 1825–1903, alt.  
 Tune: Henry Purcell, 1659–95, adapt.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

### Epistle

*Galatians 4:4–7*

**R** The Epistle is from Galatians, chapter 4.

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia

LSB 190



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

## Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22–40

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

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

<sup>29</sup>“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

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

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

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

☐ This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Apostles’ Creed

☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
 The third day He rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended into heaven  
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy Christian Church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sit

### 389 Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His  
 2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
 3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -  
 4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To  
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
 at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The  
 hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.  
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
 splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.  
 glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, 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

## Offering

938 *In Peace and Joy I Now Depart sts. 1-2*

Stand

## Offertory

LSB 192



**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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## Prayer of the Church

- P** 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,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Lead Your Church, Lord, to follow the example of blessed Simeon, that all baptized Christians would embrace the Christ Child by Word and faith, and so be ready to depart whenever they are called. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Heavenly Father, from whom all fatherhood on earth is named, bless Christian families with Your promises. Give parents diligence and delight in their work, and grant Your favor on all children, that they may grow in strength and wisdom. Bless widows, orphans and broken families also with Your mercy, and give them joy in the redemption You have won for us in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Holy God, mighty Lord, You have given power to the nations and to those who govern for the good of their people. Bless our president, Congress, governor and all our leaders, that justice may prevail and Your people would be free to live at peace with all. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Gracious Lord, receive our prayers for those who suffer from loneliness. Comfort them with the sure and certain knowledge that You will never forsake them. Give them family and friends within the household of faith with whom they can find loving companionship. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

**P** 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,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Father of lasting peace, show Your mercy to those who receive the Lord's Supper this day, that they would behold their salvation in the very body and blood of Christ given for them and, with St. Simeon, be well-prepared to depart in peace according to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising 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, we pray, 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

LSB 196

**P** 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.

**C** **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

### Benedicamus

LSB 202

**P** Bless we the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Benediction

LSB 202

**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.

## 937 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace



1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,  
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,  
△ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,



Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -  
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing  
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.  
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.  
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1-2): James Quinn, 1919-2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948

Tune: American

Text (sts. 1-2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219

Tune: Public domain

### Announcements

**Adult Sunday School at 9am** on Sunday mornings is studying Leviticus.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets next on Wednesday **Jan 3** at **10am**, studying the book of 2 Samuel.

**Church Council** next meeting is **Jan 14** at **8am**.

December has a **Fifth Sunday!** Join us for a potluck luncheon!

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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