

CHRISTMAS 2

JANUARY 3, 2021

**ORDER OF WORSHIP: Service of Word and Sacrament:
Page 26 in the front of the hymnal**

ORGANIST: Sandi Lietzau

HYMNS: 34, 359, 50,

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN 34: Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

**1 Now sing we, now rejoice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth the sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!**

**2 Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;
Through thy grace and merit, blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!**

**3 Now through his Son doth shine the Father's grace divine.
Death o'er us had reigned through sin and vanity;
He for us obtained eternal joy on high.
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!**

**4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing with all his saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing in heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!**

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Confession of Sins

Pastor: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Congregation: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Congregation: Amen.

Prayer and Praise

Pastor: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

Congregation: O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love,

You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;

you make us pure and holy in your sight.

You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, you came to live with us;

You made your Father known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood.

You are the King of glory; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON: Micah 5:2-5

2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” 3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. 4 He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. 5 And he will be their peace.

THE PSALM - Psalm 148

All creation is called on to praise the Lord because of what he has done in raising up a horn (the Savior) to bring salvation.

Pastor: Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above. Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

**CONGREGATION: Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.**

Pastor: He set them in place for ever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away. Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and maidens, old men and children.

**CONGREGATION: Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the
earth and the heavens.**

Pastor: He has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his saints, of Israel, the people close to his heart.

CONGREGATION: Praise the LORD.

THE SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 2:10-18

10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. 12 He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises.” 13 And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.” 14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

THE VERSE

Pastor: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

CONGREGATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE THIRD LESSON: John 7:40-43

40 On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.” 41 Others said, “He is the Christ.” Still others asked, “How can the Christ come from Galilee? 42 Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David’s family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?” 43 Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

CONGREGATION: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN 359: Jesus, My Great High Priest

**1 Jesus, my great High Priest, offered his blood and died;
My guilty conscience seeks no sacrifice beside.
His pow’rful blood did once atone, and now it pleads before the throne.**

**2 To Christ, my substitute, will I commit my cause;
He answers and fulfills His Father’s broken laws.
Behold my soul at freedom set—my Jesus paid the dreadful debt!**

**3 My advocate appears for my defense on high;
A gracious Father hears and lays his thunder by.
Not all that hell or sin can say shall turn his heart, his love, away.**

**4 Should all the hosts of death and pow’rs of hell unknown
Put their most dreadful forms of rage and mischief on.
I shall be safe, for Christ displays superior pow’r and guardian grace.**

THE MESSAGE: Hebrews 2:10-18

10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. 12 He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises.” 13 And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.” 14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

OUR SAVIOR IS PERFECT!

1. He shared in our humanity perfectly.

Verses 11-13

Verse 10

Verses 14-17

2. He continues to serve the family of God perfectly.

Verse 17

Verses 14-15

Verse 18

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Nicene Creed - Page 31 in the front
of the hymnal**

**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.

OFFERING

The offering will be received as you are ushered out after the service in the fellowship hall so that offering plates are not passed. The offering plate is located next to the bulletin table in the fellowship hall.

PRAYER

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 SACRAMENT LITURGY - page 33 in the front of the hymnal

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

CONGREGATION: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

CONGREGATION: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

CONGREGATION: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Pastor: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

CONGREGATION: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory. You are my God, and I will exalt you. I will give you thanks for you have become my salvation. Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.

Pastor: 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.

CONGREGATION: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

CONGREGATION: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev'ry-one what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pastor: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CONGREGATION: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

CONGREGATION: Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 50: Once in Royal David's City

**1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**2 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**3 But our eyes at last shall see him through his own redeeming love,
For that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heav'n above.
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

**4 Not in that poor, lowly stable with the oxen standing by
Shall we see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high.**

Then like stars his children crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Confirmation meets on Monday, January 4th, 3:30-5:00 pm.

2. Online Bible Class Continues.

The Format:

I send out weekly study guides in a congregational email on Mondays. You have an opportunity to work through the study guides at home.

I post an online video in which I work through the weekly study guide on Wednesdays. This video is sent out as a congregational email, just like our weekly worship services.

We are currently studying Paul's letter to the Colossians.

3. Thursday morning Bible class meets at 10:00 am. We are currently Studying the book of Numbers.