



December 29, 2024

The First Sunday of Christmas

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Beautiful Savior”

- ♪ Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- ♪ Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.
- ♪ Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.
- ♪ Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration Now and forevermore be Thine!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 537- Text: Munsterisch Gesangbuch, Munster, 1677, tr. Joseph A. Seiss 1823-1904
Tune: Silesian, 19th cent., setting: Service Book and Hymnal 1958; Public Domain.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

Exodus 13:14

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Isaiah 9:6a

For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.

Heb. 8:12

Confession and Absolution

God our Creator said to Adam and to us all to remember that “you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” But now He calls all to repentance of sin and faith in His Son, who is the remembrance of God’s mercy and who came to destroy sin and death and restore us to life. Before the newborn Redeemer of the world, let us repent and receive His forgiveness.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, remember not our sins of thought, word, and deed, the sins of our youth or of our old age. Because we often forget Your mercy toward us, we ask for Your forgiveness. Remember Your gracious will that whoever calls on Your name will be saved. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us always to remember Your mercy and Your steadfast love that we may live as Your own children, now and forever. Amen. *A Time of Silence*

Thus says the Lord, “I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.” Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

♪ Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

~Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo. Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

♪ Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song? ~Glo-ria...

♪ Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. ~Glo-ria....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 368-Text: French, tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, London 1862
Tune: French, setting: Edward S. Barnes 1887-1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. Amen.

Hymn

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

♪ It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

♪ Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

♪ All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow: Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.

♪ For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 366-Text: Edmund H. Sears 1810-76;
Tune: Richard S. Willis 1819-1900; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 13:1–3a; 11–15

¹The Lord said to Moses, ²“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

³Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place....

¹¹“When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. ¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Colossians 3:12–17

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn *Please Stand*

“Let All Together Praise Our God”

- ♪ Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again To give us His own son, To give us His own Son.
- ♪ 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.
- ♪ Within an earthborn form He hides His all-creating light;
To serve us all he humbly cloaks The splendor of His might, The splendor of His might.
- ♪ He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm, His glory, and His name, His glory and His name.
- ♪ 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.
- ♪ He is the key and He the door To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise, To God our praises rise.

Please Stand

- ♪ Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore; We praise You evermore.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 389-Text & Tune: Nicolaus Herman c.1480-1561; tr. F. Samuel Janzow 1913-2001 vv.1,3-7;
tr. August Crull 1845-1923 v.2; ©1969 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Holy Gospel

John 1:1–18

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“What Child Is This”

- ♪ What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!
- ♪ Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!
- ♪ So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 370-Text: William C. Dix 1837-98; Tune: English 16th cent.;
Setting: John Stainer 1840-1901; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Proclamation of the Word

“Remember!”

Exodus 13:3a

Offering and Musical Offering

Installation of 2025 Officers

Hymn

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

- ♪ Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
- ♪ Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- ♪ Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 363-Text: Franz Joseph Mohr 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young 1820-85;
Tune: Franz Xavier Gruber 1787-1863; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

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.

Numbers 6:24-26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

- ♪ Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own,
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.
- ♪ Crown Him the virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.
- ♪ Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.
- ♪ Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

♪ Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 525-Text: Matthew Bridges 1800-94, vv. 1-3, Godfrey Thring 1823-1903, v.4

Tune: George J. Elvey 1816-93, setting: Service Book and Hymnal 1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Postlude