



January 5, 2025

The Second Sunday of Christmas

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

♪ O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold Him Born the king of angels:

~O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

♪ Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;

Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! ~O come,...

♪ Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God In the highest: ~O come,...

♪ Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!

Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! ~O come,....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 379-Text & Tune: John F. Wade c.1711-86; tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802-80;
Setting: The Hymnal 1940; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Invocation

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.

And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

And through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

Colossians 1:15–20

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

Do you recognize the truth—that you have not loved God with your whole heart nor loved your neighbor as yourself?

I confess that I have failed to keep the two great commandments by what I have done and what I have failed to do. Heavenly Father, I don't deserve Your forgiveness, but ask for it because of the greatest love shown at the cross.

Hear the great news: God has used two common earthly elements—water and blood—to forgive your sins and make you His very own. Through the cross of Christ and the blood of Jesus shed there,

and because you have been baptized, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, Lord, for revealing Your mercy and grace to me. Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, cleanse us by the power of Your redeeming blood that in purity and peace we may worship and adore Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated* Music: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”, “O Sing of Christ”

♪ O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity God’s finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity, The icon of His grace.

♪ What Adam lost, none could reclaim, And Paradise was barred
Until the second Adam came To mend what sin had marred.
For when the time was full and right God sent His only Son;
He came to us as life and light And our redemption won.

♪ He came to that which was His own, But He was not received;
Yet still through Him God’s glory shone, And some His name believed.
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav’n above,
Born not of human ancestry But born of God in love.

♪ Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell Among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel, To bring this holy birth.
Though rich, You willingly became One with our poverty,
That we might share Your wealth and name For all eternity!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 362 -Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955; Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958;
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Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

- ♪ Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
~Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.
- ♪ Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light. ~Come...
- ♪ Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star. ~Come...
- ♪ Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear. ~Come...

Please Stand

- ♪ All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To th' eternal Three in One. ~Come....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 367-Text: James Montgomery 1771-1854, vv.1-4; Salisbury Hymn Book 1857, v.5
Tune: Henry T. Smart 1813-79, setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when

you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

Handbell Choir

The Hymn

“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”

♪ Come, your hearts and voice raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.

♪ Christ, from heav’n to us descending And in love our race befriending;
In our need His help extending, Saved us from the wily foe.

♪ Jacob’s star in all its splendor Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender, Breaking all the pow’rs of hell.

♪ From the bondage that oppressed us, From sin’s fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us, we, the captives, now are free.

♪ Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing That Your love has set us free.

♪ Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us Till we join Your choir above.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 375 -Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
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Proclamation of the Word

“Something Unusual”

Matthew 2:1–12

Offering and Musical Offering

Reception of New Members

Admonition to Communicants *Please Stand*

Lord’s Prayer

Sanctus Hymn *Music: “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name” Hymn 917 “Isaiah, Mighty Seer”*

♪ Isaiah, mighty seer in days of old, The Lord of all in spirit did behold
High on a lofty throne, in splendor bright,
With robes that filled the temple courts with light.

♪ Above the throne were flaming seraphim; Six wings had they, these messengers of Him.
With two they veiled their faces as was right,
With two they humbly hid their feet from sight.

- ♪ And with the other two aloft they soared; One to the other called and praised the Lord:
 “Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!
 Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!
- ♪ Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth! His glory fills the heavens and the earth!”
 The beams and lintels trembled at the cry.
 And clouds of smoke enwrapped the throne on high.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 960-Text: Martin Luther 1483-1546; ©1941 Concordia Publishing House;
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Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

- ♪ Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
 Manifested by the star To the sages from afar,
 Branch of royal David’s stem In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
 Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.
- ♪ Manifest at Jordan’s stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
 And at Cana wedding guest In Thy Godhead manifest;
 Manifest in pow’r divine, Changing water into wine;
 Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.
- ♪ Manifest in making whole Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
 Manifest in valiant fight, Quelling all the devil’s might;
 Manifest in gracious will, Ever bringing good from ill;
 Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.
- ♪ Sun and moon shall darkened be, Stars shall fall, the heav’ns shall flee;
 Christ will then like lightning shine, All will see His glorious sign;
 All will then the trumpet hear, All will see the Judge appear;
 Thou by all wilt be confessed, God in man made manifest.
- ♪ Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Present in Thy holy Word—
 Grace to imitate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;
 That we might become like Thee At Thy great epiphany
 And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 394 -Text: Christopher Wordsworth 1807-85; Tune: George J. Elvey 1816-93;
 Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our 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.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“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.;
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Postlude