

First Sunday after Christmas ✕ December 27, 2020

WELCOME! *In the psalm all the natural world praises God, including all humanity, male and female, young and old. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we speak of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.*



THE PASTORAL GREETING

THE OPENING HYMN – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

LSB 380

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the_angelic host 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 Godhead see, Hail the_incarinate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Text: Public domain

THE INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name.

C: **Amen.**

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

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, our words, and our behavior—through things we have done and things we have failed to do. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved those around us as we ought. Turn us again to you and uphold us by your Holy Spirit, so that we may live and serve you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE – “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

LSB 374

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undeiled, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.

- 2 Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.

- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undeiled But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!

Text: Public domain

✠ THE WORD ✠

THE FIRST READING – Isaiah 61:10-62:3, NIV

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that the Lord's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE READING – Galatians 4:4-7, NIV

Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as sons and daughters.

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HYMN – "From East to West"

(Vs. 5)

LSB 385

5 All glory for this blessed morn To God the Father ever be;
All praise to You, O Virgin-born, And Holy Ghost eternally.

Text: Public domain

THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – Luke 2:22-40, NIV

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE HYMN – "What Child Is This"

LSB 370

1 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!

- 2 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!
- 3 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!

Text: Public domain

THE MESSAGE

✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

THE HYMN – “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

(*Vss. 1-4*)

LSB 384

- 1 Of the Father’s love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
 He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
 Of the things that are, that have been,
 And that future years shall see Evermore and evermore.
- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessèd, When the virgin, full of grace,
 By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,
 And the babe, the world’s Redeemer,
 First revealed His sacred face Evermore and evermore.
- 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,
 Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
 Now He shines, the long-expected;
 Let creation praise its Lord Evermore and evermore.
- 4 O ye heights of heav’n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing.
 Pow’rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.
 Let no tongue on earth be silent,
 Ev’ry voice in concert ring Evermore and evermore.

Text: Public domain

THE 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Hear us Heavenly Father, as we pray the prayer that Christ gave us:

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 BLESSING

P: May almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C: Amen.

THE HYMN – “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

(Vs. 5)

LSB 384

5 **Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory Evermore and evermore. Amen.**

Text: Public domain

✠ May God bless you and yours. ✠

Peace Lutheran Church
355 E. State Road 120
Fremont, IN 46737

(260) 495-4306
www.plcms.org
facebook.com/plcms