

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 2 & 3, 2021

"Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education."



All who heard him
were amazed...

Luke 2:47, NRSV

Music of Preparation,
Welcome, Announcements, Greeting

Our Ministry: We are a people of God who are: ROOTED in Christ, GROWING TOGETHER in Christ, BRANCHING OUT in Christ!

Welcome! "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1): sky, waters, ground; sun, moon, stars; plants, animals, people. Then God rested. So, welcome to this time for rest and worship.

Devotions & Publications are available in the Main Entryway.
*(Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate, **not in the envelope basket.**)*

..... **WORSHIP NOTES**

Communion: *The Lord's Supper - A Reverent Sacrament
The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:27,29, "Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the Lord's cup in an unworthy way is guilty of sinning against the Lord's body and blood. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the Lord's body brings judgment on himself as he eats and drinks." In view of the serious nature of the Lord's Supper, Paul commands us to examine ourselves to see if we are partaking the supper for the purposes for which Christ instituted with our hearts properly prepared. We heartily invite Confirmed members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to receive of the Lord's Supper. Other guests, we ask you to see the pastor or lay minister first so that you may receive the supper to your benefit rather than to your harm as the Apostle Paul warns.
NOTE: If you are allergic or cannot drink full strength wine, The two (2) cups in the center of each tray have water with a drop or two of wine.

To Our Visitors...Please sign our guest book found in the main entryway. Our school has a few nooks and crannies, so don't be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available near the guest register in the main (west) entryway.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE

(The music for the liturgy may be found on page 151 in the Hymnal)

Notes for Worship: As you prepare to receive the Lord's Supper this day, we invite you to turn to the prayer section of the Hymnal (page 305). In addition to prayers for before and after worship, there are prayers for use before and after receiving the Lord's Supper (page 308 as well as on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

Before worship prayer

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. AMEN.

We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!

Opening Hymn: "To Your Temple, Lord, I Come" *LSB, hymn #981*

To Your temple, Lord, I come, For it is my worship home.
This earth has no better place, Here I see my Savior's face.

I through Him am reconciled, I through Him become Your child.
Abba, Father, give me grace In Your courts Your love to trace.

While Your glorious praise is sung, Touch my lips, unloose my tongue
That my joyful soul may bless Christ the Lord, my righteousness.

While the prayers of saints ascend, God of love, to mine attend.
Hear me, for Your Spirit pleads; Hear, for Jesus intercedes.

While I listen to Your Law, Fill my soul with humble awe
Till Your Gospel bring to me Life and immortality.

While Your ministers proclaim Peace and pardon in Your name,
Through their voice, by faith, may I Hear You speaking from the sky.

From Your house when I return, May my heart within me burn,
And at evening let me say, "I have walked with God today."

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

C: **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b*

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8-9*

P: Dear Friends in Christ, let us humble our hearts before our Holy God and silently reflect upon our sins.

(Moment of silent reflection)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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. *John 20:19-23*

C: **Amen**

KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **(Sung) Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: **(Sung) Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: **(Sung) Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: **(Sung) Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **(Sung) Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Feast

Revelation 5:12-13, 19:5-9

C: **(Sung)**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: **(Sung) And also with you.**

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

(Please be Seated)

THE READING OF THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson: 1 Kings 3:4-15

(Solomon Prays For Wisdom)

The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for - both riches and honor - so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life." Then Solomon awoke - and he realized it had been a dream. He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

(God Has Made His Mystery Known)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will - to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished

on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment - to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession - to the praise of his glory.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse - Common

John 6:68

C: (Sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

C: (Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:40-52

(The Boy Jesus In The Temple)

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went

down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be Seated)

Sermon Hymn: "Within the Father's House" *LSB, hymn #410 (tune LSB331)*

Within the Father's house The Son has found His home,
And to His temple suddenly The Lord of life has come.

The doctors of the Law Gaze on the wondrous child
And marvel at His gracious words Of wisdom undefiled.

Yet not to them is giv'n The mighty truth to know,
To lift the earthly veil that hides Incarnate God below.

The secret of the Lord Escapes each human eye,
And faithful pond'ring hearts await The full epiphany.

Lord, visit Thou our souls And teach us by Thy grace
Each dim revealing of Thyself With loving awe to trace

Till we behold Thy face And know as we are known
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Coequal Three in One.

Sermon: "A King's Wisdom"

1 Kings 3:4-15

Tithes and Offerings will be collected as you leave worship

Stand

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten

of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

P: Let us pray, . . . We pray for the Church, that the light of the Gospel of salvation be proclaimed here and everywhere, the wisdom of God be honored and followed, and the gifts of God be treasured and shared. Lord of the Church,

C: in mercy, hear our prayer.

P: As this New Year begins, we pray for our nation and for all of the people of the world, that there be an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness and wellness everywhere prevail. Lord of all times and all people,

C: in mercy, hear our prayer.

P: We pray for our families and our neighbors. Help us to remember that each person in our lives is a precious gift from God. Guided by the Holy Spirit, help us to choose wisely how we invest our time in the coming weeks and find in our associations with God's people a source of mutual support and blessing. Lord of all generations,

C: in mercy, hear our prayer.

P: We pray for all sorts and conditions of people, especially making our petitions for the hospitalized and those who are shut in. We pray for those whose lives are in transition, the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and for all those for whom our intercession is desired. We pray that you be with those hospitalized this past week (*Especially, . . .*). Also be with those who continue

treatment and healing at home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). Lord of care and grace,

C: in mercy, hear our prayer.

P: As a community of the faithful gathered, we remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this earthly life, especially those whose earthly lives came to an end in the past year. Direct our ways that we complete our journey of life in faith with divine wisdom to direct us. At the end of our days, bring us to rejoice together eternally with saints and angels and all the company of heaven in light everlasting. Lord of eternity,

C: in mercy, hear our prayer.

(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . .)

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

C: Hear Our Prayer.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

(In preparation to receive the Sacrament, please read the Communion notes on page 2)

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: (Sung) And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C: (Sung) We lift them to the Lord.

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

Psalms 136

C: (Sung) It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have had mercy on us and sent Your only-begotten Son as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Grant us the gift of Your Spirit, that we receive Your wisdom and blessings with thankfulness. Help us to treasure the life of faith and worship we share and receive the body and blood of our Lord as the guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and the Holy Spirit. We praise and honor You as we sing:

SANCTUS ~ Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9

C: (Sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us, Your children, and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that he may establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to remember our Redeemer and receive him who comes to us in his body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

C: 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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my \dagger body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me. In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my \dagger blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Mt 26:26-28, Mk 14:22-24, Lk 22:19-20, 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. *John 20:19*

C: And also with you.

Agnus Dei ~ The Lamb of God

John 1:29

C: (Sung) Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Please be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB376 - Once in Royal David's City

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.

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.

For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.

And 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.

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!

LSB388 - Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

*Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. *Refrain.*

The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain.*

Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain.*

LSB523 - O Word of God Incarnate

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
We praise You for the radiance That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.

The Church from You, dear Master, Received the gift divine;
And still that light is lifted O'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass That, all life's voyage through,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands Still guides, O Christ, to You.

O make Your Church, dear Savior, A lamp of burnished gold
To bear before the nations Your true light as of old!
O teach Your wand'ring pilgrims By this their path to trace
Till, clouds and darkness ended, They see You face to face!

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: Thank The Lord:

C: (Sung) Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. . . . Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Strengthen and support us, Your pilgrim people, so that we grow in wisdom and serve You and our neighbor. Keep us in Your care in

the year that is beginning, and bring us at last to Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION

P: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: (Sung) Amen

Closing Hymn: "As with Gladness Men of Old" *LSB, hymn #397*

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.

See You In Worship Next Week!

After worship prayer

Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

There is a Prayer Ministry Member(s) in each service that is wearing a prayer ministry tag around their neck. Please look for them if you want a prayer for someone else, a concern or situation you may have, or yourself.

Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after Sunday services.

Altar Flowers Altar flowers this weekend are given in loving memory of my father, Ulysses Curwick, and my sister, Florence Banks, on their birthdays, by Carol Ginger; also in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Les Jennings.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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WORSHIP NOTES

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!' (Psalm 122:1)"

We are glad that we can gather in worship as God's people. However, we do need to proceed with precautions at this time.

1. You are welcome to attend. however if you have a fever or are not feeling well, please stay home and watch our services online.
2. As you enter, there will be hand sanitizer available for you, but please feel free to bring your own.
3. As you arrive for worship, we ask that you practice social distancing between family groups (6 feet between groups in pews and two chairs of space between groups at the school location).
4. Pick up your own bulletin and please take it with you or place it in the trash or recycle can as you leave.
5. If you choose to use a hymnal, please leave it by your seat and it will be wiped down before being returned to its spot.
6. While we are not shaking hands at this time, you can still greet your friends and those sitting nearby.
7. We will have our normal style service, with responses and singing. Please feel free to sing. ***But to be cautious, please wear your mask while singing.***
8. Collection of Tithes and Offerings will be taken near the exits after the service. You may simply place your offering in them as you leave.
9. **Communion.** Please wear your mask coming up to communion. At Communion, you will receive the bread in your hand and both individual and common cup will be available. Remove your mask when consuming the elements. The Pastors and Lay Ministers will be wearing a mask and will use hand sanitizer before serving the elements. Afterwards, dispose of the empty container in the baskets. Children are welcome to come up for a blessing during communion.