## Second Sunday of Christmas

## ~ January 5, 2025 ~ Faith & First

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

## Confession and Forgiveness LBW pg. 56 ELW pg. 94

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 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, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***C: Amen.***

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

P: Most merciful God,

***C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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: 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.***

**Gathering Hymn *“The First Noel”*** *vs. 1-4* LBW #56 ELW #300

Vs. 1 The first Noel the angel did say was to

certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where

they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's

night that was so deep.

***Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.***

Vs. 2 They looked up and saw a star shining

in the east beyond them far; and to the

earth it gave great light, and so it con-

tinued both day and night. ***Refrain***

Vs. 3 And by the light of that same star three

wise men came from country far; to seek for a

king was their intent, and to follow the

star wherever it went. ***Refrain***

Vs. 4 This star drew near to the northwest, o'er

Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it

did both stop and stay right over the

place where Jesus lay. ***Refrain***

**Greeting** LBW pg. 57 ELW pg. 138

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Kyrie** LBW pg. 58 ELW pg. 138

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

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

***C: 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: 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: Lord, have mercy.***

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

***C: Amen.***

**Hymn of Praise** LBW pg.58 ELW pg. 139Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God’s gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

**7**Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.” **8**See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. **9**With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. **10**Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.” **11**For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. **12**They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. **13**Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. **14**I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

**Psalm 147:12-20**

12Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

**13who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**

14God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**15God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly. Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion.**

16God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

**17God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God’s cold?**

18The Lord sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

**19God declares the word to Jacob, statues and judgements to Israel.**

20The Lord has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God’s judgements. Hallelujah!

**Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion.**

**Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14**

*In Jesus, all of God’s plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God’s children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

**3**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4**just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. **5**He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, **6**to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. **7**In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace **8**that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight **9**he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, **10**as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. **11**In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, **12**so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. **13**In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; **14**this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

**Gospel Acclamation** LBW pg. 62 ELW pg. 142

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the

words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Gospel:** **John 1:1-18**

*John begins his gospel with this prologue; a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2**He was in the beginning with God. **3**All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4**in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

**6**There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7**He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8**He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9**The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. **10**He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. **11**He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. **12**But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13**who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**14**And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. **15**(John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ”) **16**From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17**The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18**No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”***  LBW #60 ELW #270

Vs. 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born king;  
 peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”  
 Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
 with angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

***Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born king!”***

Vs.2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the ever-lasting Lord,  
 late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.  
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, the incarnate deity!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! ***Refrain***

Vs. 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 we no more may die,  
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. ***Refrain***

**Apostles’ Creed** LBW pg. 65ELW pg. 105

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775 ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth and all people.

O God, you reveal yourself in this assembly. In water, wine and bread, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in creation. In seedlings and planets, microorganisms and galaxies, awaken us to the cry of the earth. As you nourish your people like a watered garden, empower us to nourish our creaturely companions. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in every land and in the farthest parts of the earth. Deliver peoples who suffer under oppressive regimes. Thwart the foolish plans of unjust leaders. Give wisdom to our elected officials. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in every human being. Help us recognize your image in our siblings in Christ who are in the strong grip of addiction, depressions, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illness especially

Grant us compassion in our care for your people. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself anew every day. In this new year, renew this congregation and its ministries in our witness to the good news of the incarnation. Transform the way we have always done things into your new future for us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in the lives of your holy ones. We give you thanks for those who set their hope on you, trusting the inheritance we receive in you.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775 ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Offering *“We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs. 1*** LBW #410ELW #686

We give thee but thine own, what e’er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone a trust, O Lord from thee.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus, Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Great Thanksgiving** LBW pg. 68ELW pg. 145

P: The Lord be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts.

***C: We lift them to the Lord.***

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

***C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**Words of Institution**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

***C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer** LBW pg. 71ELW pg. 145

P: Let us pray as Jesus has taught 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.***

**Communion**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

**Blessing**

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord’s face shine on us with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon us with favor and + give you peace.

**Sending Hymn *“Let All Together Praise Our God***” LBW #47

Vs. 1 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.

Vs. 2 The Father sends him from his throne To be an infant

Small And lie here poorly mangered now In

This cold, dismal stall, In this cold dismal stall.

Vs. 3 Within an earth-born form he hides His all creating

Light; To serve us all he humbly cloaks The

Splendor of his might, The splendor of his might.

Vs. 4 He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human

Frame, An in return gives us his realm, His

Glory, and his name, His glory, and his name.

**Sending Hymn *“Let All Together Praise Our God***” ELW #287

Vs. 1 Let all together praise our God, before the

Highest throne; today God opens heav’n again and

Sends the only Son, and sends the only Son.

Vs. 2 From God’s right hand the Son descends, is born an

Infant small, and lives in poverty, his bed a

Manger in a stall, a manger in a stall.

Vs. 3 O tender Child, you veil in flesh, the splendor

Of your might; a servants garb now wraps the one who

Clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.

Vs. 4 Your mother feeds you tenderly, sings you a

Lullaby, while angels, hailing David’s heir, your

Glory magnify, your glory magnify.

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Share the good news!

***C: Thanks be to God!***

**Postlude**