



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 27, 2020

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No Longer a Slave

As We Gather

The Epistle for the First Sunday after Christmas brings a one-sentence summary of the Christmas message as Paul writes it to the Christians of Galatia. “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son” (Galatians 4:4). God knew the exact right time for His beloved Son to come to earth, this sin-filled world. God had a plan for salvation that was carried out faithfully and completely by Jesus. In the days after Christmas, we have the opportunity to reflect on the importance of the Christmas message. We have received the greatest of all gifts. Through Jesus Christ, we are heirs of God and have an eternal inheritance!

Prelude & Welcome

Ringing of the Tower Bell

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the **+** Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

- P** Alleluia! My eyes have seen Your salvation,
C a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. Alleluia!
- P** Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.
C You who have done great things, O God, who is like You?
- P** My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to You;
C my soul also, which You have redeemed.

546 O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

1 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! For
2 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! With
3 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! Joy

sin - ners You be - came a child. You came from
God we now are rec - on - ciled. You have for
fills the world which sin de - filed. What - e'er we

heav - en down to earth In hu - man flesh through
all the ran - som paid, Your Fa - ther's righ - teous
have be - longs to You; O keep us faith - ful,

hu - man birth. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!
an - ger stayed. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!
strong, and true. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!

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Confession and Absolution

- P** People redeemed by the Lord, let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
- C** Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of having sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not lived our lives fully in the freedom won for us by our Lord. We have not always shared the bounty You have given us as stewards of Your creation. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus, our Savior. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.
- P** God has promised pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son, who has replaced slavery to sin with a priceless inheritance of freedom and joy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☧ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.
- C** Amen.

Introit

- P** The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
- C** Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him. The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

387 Joy to the World

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P** 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.
C Amen.

Celebration of the Day St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Celebration of the Day - St. John

- P** (*Explanation of Dec. 27 as the Day of St. John*)
• **HYMN - 517** “By All Your Saints in Warfare”

1 By all Your saints in warfare,
For all Your saints at rest,
Your holy name, O Jesus,
Forevermore be blest!
For You have won the battle
That they might wear the crown;
And now they shine in glory
Reflected from Your throne.

8 For Your belov'd disciple **St. John, Apostle and Evangelist (Dec 27)**

Exiled to Patmos' shore,
And for his faithful record,
We praise You evermore.
Praise for the mystic vision
Through him to us revealed;
May we, in patience waiting,
With Your elect be sealed.

sts. 1, 8

- P** (*John and Mary, the mother of Jesus*)
• **HYMN - 517** “By All Your Saints in Warfare”

△ 3 Then let us praise the Father
 And worship God the Son
 And sing to God the Spirit,
 Eternal Three in One,
 Till all the ransomed number
 Fall down before the throne,
 Ascribing pow'r and glory
 And praise to God alone.

Old Testament *Isaiah 61:10–62:3*

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
 my soul shall exult in my God,
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
 as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
 so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
 to sprout up before all the nations.
¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
 until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
 and her salvation as a burning torch.
²The nations shall see your righteousness,
 and all the kings your glory,
 and you shall be called by a new name
 that the mouth of the LORD will give.
³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 111 (tone I)



¹Praise the LORD!
 I will give thanks to the LORD with my | whole heart,*
 in the company of the upright, in the congre- | gation.
²Great are the works | of the LORD,*
 studied by all who de- | light in them.
³Full of splendor and majesty | is his work,*
 and his righteousness endures for- | ever.
⁴He has caused his wondrous works to be re- | membered;*
 the LORD is gracious and | merciful.
⁵He provides food for those who | fear him;*
 he remembers his covenant for- | ever.
⁶He has shown his people the power | of his works,*
 in giving them the inheritance of the | nations.
⁷The works of his hands are faith- | ful and just;*
 all his precepts are | trustworthy;
⁸they are established forever and | ever,*
 to be performed with faithfulness and up- | rightness.

⁹He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant for- | ever.*

Holy and awesome | is his name!

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good under- | standing.*
His praise endures for- | ever!

Epistle *Galatians 4:4-7*

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

P To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

C And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Holy Gospel *Luke 2:22-40*

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.

³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.

³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

389 Let All Together Praise Our God

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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 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.

6 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.

△ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,

Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore

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Sermon "No Longer a Slave" Text

Catechism

P Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we can call God our “Abba”—our Father. The Spirit directs our praying and intercedes for us. Today we confess the words of the Apostles’ Creed regarding the work of the Holy Spirit and also speak the words from Luther’s Small Catechism regarding the work of the Spirit through the Church, of which each of us is a special part.

C **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.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Offertory and StewardMINUTE

Offering Prayer

What Shall We Bring to the Lord (music in separate attachment)

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major, common time. The first staff contains the lyrics for the first three lines of the hymn. The second staff continues the lyrics with 'faith - ful - ly bless - ing our days?'. The third staff begins with 'lov - ing - ly watch - ing our ways?' and ends with 'gra - cious - ly bless - ing our days?'. The fourth staff concludes the hymn with 'As our', followed by 'sing Him the best of our words and our tunes As our', and 'bring Him the best of our gifts, songs, and lives As our'. The fifth staff concludes with 'of - f'rings of love, thanks, and praise.'

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Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Benediction

- P** Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all of God's people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the  Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you and keep you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

- 1 Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given.
- 2 To this vale of tears He comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes
We may reign in gladness.
- 3 We are rich, for He was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.
- 4 Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,
Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us.

 Soli Deo Gloria 

To God Alone Be Glory

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
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