

Christus Lutheran Church



Luke 2:28-32

²⁸ he 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; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your
salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all
peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for
glory to your people Israel.”

Large Print 8:00 & 10:30

December 31, 2017

PRELUDE

Ann Crocker

WELCOME

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P: “If we say we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and His word is not in us.” [*James 1:10*] Let us by all means confess that God and His word are Truth by confessing our sins.

*Kneel as you are able or remain seated –
Silence to reflect on the sins that trouble us*

P: God of mercy;

C: We cannot deny that we are prone to sin, and are easily overcome by many temptations. In our own strength, we are helpless to resist. For the sake of your beloved Son, forgive us our sins, which are many, that we may love you much. Then strengthen us by your Spirit to resist the devil, that he may flee from us. We ask in Jesus’ name. Amen

P: Your heavenly Father hears your heart, and for the sake of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, forgives you all your sins, and grants you a new life in Him.

C: Amen! Thank you, Father, for your mercy.

Stand

PEACE

P: Grace, mercy and peace to you, from God the Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. [*1 Timothy 1:2*]

C: Grace, mercy and peace to you.

All are free to move about and greet one another in peace.

HYMN: Angels from the Realms of Glory

LBW #50

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story;
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.*

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light. *Refrain*

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations;
You have seen his natal star. *Refrain*

4. All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God, our Maker and Redeemer,

C: **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, Amen.**

Be Seated

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 61:10-62:3

R: The first lesson is from Isaiah, the 61st chapter

¹⁰ I 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. ¹¹ For 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.

¹ For 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. ² The 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. ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

PSALM 111

¹ Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,

in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² Great are the works of the LORD,

studied by all who delight in them.

³ Full of splendor and majesty is his work,

and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;

the LORD is gracious and merciful.

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;

he remembers his covenant forever.

⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

⁸ they are established forever and ever,

to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹ He sent redemption to his people;

he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name!

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

all those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever!

SECOND LESSON: Galatians 4:4-7

R: The Second Lesson is from Romans, the 16th chapter.

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

R: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Stand

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:22-40

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him 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”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now 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. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And 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, ²⁸ he 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; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And 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.”

³⁶ And 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, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And 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.

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

P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Be Seated

SERMON

Stand

HYMN: The First Noel

LBW #56

1. The First Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
In fields as 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.*

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 continued both day and night. *Refrain*

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*

4. This star drew nigh 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*

NICENE CREED

P: Together with the saints of all times and places, we confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father; God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God; begotten, not made; of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Be Seated

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

Stand

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father,

C: Erase the myth of scarcity from us, and open our eyes to the great abundance with which you have blessed us, so that we will be generous stewards of your blessings, to the benefit of your children and to the glory of your holy name. Amen

THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace; in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

HYMN: The Bells of Christmas

LBW #62 vs. 1-4

1. The bells of Christmas chime once more;
The heav'nly guest is at the door.
He comes to earthly dwellings still,
With new year gifts of peace, goodwill.
2. The world, though wide and far outspread,
Could scarcely find for you a bed.
Your cradle was a manger stall.
No pearl or silk nor kingly hall.
3. Now let us go with quiet mind,
The swaddled babe with shepherds find,
To gaze on him who gladdens them,
The loveliest flow'r of Jesse's stem.
4. Oh, join with me, in gladness sing,
To keep our Christmas with our king,
Until our song, from loving souls,
Like rushing mighty water rolls!

DISMISSAL

P: We go in peace, to fear God, love God, and trust God.

C: He is to be feared and loved, and He can be trusted. Amen

POSTLUDE



HOLY COMMUNION

All the baptized who believe in the true presence of Christ
in these elements, the bread and wine,
and who know their need of forgiveness,
are welcome to receive the Lord's Supper.

(1 Cor. 11:23-25; Matt.26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19, 20)

Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are available. Gluten-free wafers are available – please ask your server for the gluten free wafer if you so choose.

Children who have not received instruction, and those who do not believe in the true presence of Christ in the Supper, may come forward with arms crossed over their hearts to receive a blessing.

Christus Lutheran Church

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Office Hours: 8:00am – 12:00pm; 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Pastors: Brian Crocker, & Ben Hollingsead

Organists: Ann Crocker, Nancy Netzel, Ericka Shelton

