

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 30, 2018

11:00 am



AS WE GATHER

Simeon and Anna rejoiced when Mary and Joseph brought week-old Jesus to the temple. He was physical proof that God was keeping His promises made centuries ago. Firstborn males had to be consecrated to God because He had spared them at the time of the exodus. In our Psalm today, God promises redemption for His people, and in Christ we are His chosen people, holy and dearly loved, as Paul writes in the Epistle. Today is the Sunday after Christmas, and we focus on how we exhibit love, forgiveness, and peace, thanking God for His promises kept.

PRE-SERVICE

Instrumental



WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING SONG “Your Name”

Baloche/Packiam

**As morning dawns and evening fades You inspire songs of praise
That rise from earth to touch Your heart and glorify Your Name.**

**CHORUS: Your Name is a strong and mighty tower;
Your Name is a shelter like no other;
Your Name let the nations sing it louder
‘Cause nothing has the power to save but Your Name.**

**Jesus, in Your Name we pray, come and fill our hearts today.
Lord, give us strength to live for You and glorify Your Name. CHORUS**

Interlude

**Your Name is a strong and mighty tower;
Your Name is a shelter like no other;
Your Name let the nations sing it louder
‘Cause nothing has the power to save but. . .**

**Your Name is a strong and mighty tower.
Your Name is a shelter like no other.
Your Name let the nations sing it louder,
‘Cause nothing has the power to save
But Your Name.**

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(Please Stand)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(If you would like private confession and absolution, please call the office at (314) 832-5600 to make an appointment with Pastor Clark)

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Heavenly Father, although You have called us as Your own people, dearly loved, we confess that we have failed to forgive one another as You have forgiven us. We have neglected to reflect Your love at home, school, and work. We have let discord and conflict drown out the peace that You have given us in Christ. We have failed to thank You for Your great love in our private prayers and with our outward words and actions. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, and guide us by Your Holy Spirit so that our lives may reflect the love with which You surround us by grace each day.**

Pastor: Rejoice! By God's love, He gives us forgiveness as a gift for the sake of His Son, whose birth we celebrate. The Holy Spirit clothes us with the very compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience the Father expects. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Freely have you received God's love; freely give it as a gift to all you meet.

People: **Amen!**

[OR]

Seminary Student: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *John 1:12, Philippians 1:6*

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: **Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

(Please Be Seated)



OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15*

(Every firstborn Israelite male must be redeemed, remembering the exodus.)

¹The Lord said to Moses, ²“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.” ³Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten. . . . ¹¹“When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. ¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalms 111*

Pastor: Come, for God provided redeeming,

People: **in His covenant ordaining.
Christ is born, God's love revealing. We are His eternally.**

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

People: **in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

Pastor: Great are the works of the LORD,

People: **studied by all who delight in them.**

Pastor: Full of splendor and majesty is His work,

People: **and His righteousness endures forever.**

Pastor: He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;

People: **the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

Pastor: He provides food for those who fear Him;

People: **He remembers His covenant forever.**

Pastor: He has shown His people the power of His works,

People: **in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

Pastor: The works of His hands are faithful and just;

People: **all His precepts are trustworthy;**

Pastor: they are established forever and ever,

People: **to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

Pastor: He sent redemption to His people;

People: **He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name!**

Pastor: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
People: **all those who practice it have a good understanding.**
His praise endures forever! Come, for God provided redeeming, in His covenant ordaining.
Christ is born, God's love revealing. We are His eternally.



EPISTLE *Colossians 3:12–17*

(“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”)

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)



HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:22–40* (Simeon and Anna praise God when they see the baby Jesus in the temple.)

The congregation is invited to read the words in bold

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²²And 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”) 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, 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; 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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**



NICENE CREED

LSB 158

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.

(Please Be Seated)



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" LSB 411

**I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.**

**Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

SONG OF THE DAY "Christ Be My Leader" LSB 861

**Christ be my Leader by night as by day; Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care, darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.**

**Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth, Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand, Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.**

**Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife; Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain Can touch my salvation; with Jesus I reign**



SERMON

(Please Stand)



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Colossians 3:12, 15; Matthew 5:23-24*

Pastor: Holy and beloved, let us use the encouragement of the Epistle to guide our prayers to God for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various needs. Put on compassion:

People: Protect and guide all who serve in the healing professions, O Lord. Give them compassion so that they see their patients as Your dearly loved children.

Pastor: Put on humility:
People: **Remind those who fill positions of authority here and around the world to rule with humility as they serve You and the people around them in making, administering, and adjudicating the laws of the land.**

Pastor: Put on patience:
People: **Open doors of opportunity for the spread of the Gospel here and around the world. Give patience to clergy and lay leaders alike as they proclaim the news of Your Son's birth. Make them aware of Your gracious presence to bless their efforts.**

Pastor: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Heavenly Father, we remember before You those who are not at peace because of illness, conflict, loss, and sadness, [*including . . .*]. In Your great love,
People: **restore health, resolve conflict, console, and bring renewal of joy as fits Your gracious plans for them.**

(Special Petitions)

Pastor: Into Your hands, loving Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
People: **Amen.**

(Please Be Seated)



GATHERING OF OFFERINGS "Give Me Jesus"

Camp

**In the morning when I rise, In the morning when I rise,
In the morning when I rise, Give me Jesus.**

**CHORUS: Give me Jesus. Give me Jesus.
You can have all this world, Give me Jesus.**

**When I am alone, When I am alone,
Oh, when I am alone, Give me Jesus. CHORUS**

**When I come to die, When I come to die,
Oh, when I come to die, Give me Jesus. CHORUS**

**Give me Jesus. Give me Jesus.
You can have all this world...
You can have all this world...
You can have all this world...
Just give me Jesus.**

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(Please Stand)

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.



BENEDICTION

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who gave the gift of His Son, the Son who gave us the gift of eternal life, and the Holy Spirit who gives us to one another in love—bless you and keep you, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

LSB 388

**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***

POSTLUDE

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