



Christmas 1

December 27 and 28, 2020

WORSHIP FOCUS

There are two great miracles in Christmas: the one that God has become man for us and for our salvation, and that he in grace reveals the first miracle even to me and blesses me with all its benefit.

SERVICE OF WORD and SACRAMENT

OPENING HYMN – 366

O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

**O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
For sinners you became a child.
You came from heaven to fulfill
Your Father's just and holy will.
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!**

**O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
With God we now are reconciled.
You have for all the ransom paid,
Your Father's righteous anger stayed.
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!**

**O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
Joy fills the world which sin defiled.
Whate'er we have belongs to you;
Oh, keep us faithful, strong, and true.
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!**

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607-62, abr.; tr. Frieda Pietsch, alt.

P: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

- C:** Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.
- P:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.
- C:** Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LORD, HAVE MERCY Kyrie

- P:** For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, with a slur under the last three notes (B4, A4, G4).

- P:** For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mer - cy.

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, with a slur under the last three notes (B4, A4, G4).

- P:** For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, with a slur under the last three notes (B4, A4, G4).

- P:** Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: A - men.

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, with a slur under the last three notes (B4, A4, G4).

P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,

you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;

you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the

King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,

how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

PRAYER of the DAY (spoken together)

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 45:20-25

²⁰Gather! Come! Draw near together, you survivors from the nations. They have no knowledge—those who are lifting up their idols of wood and praying to a god that cannot save. ²¹Make an announcement and come close. Let them consult together. Who made this known ahead of time? From time past who announced it? Was it not I, the LORD? There is no god except me, a righteous God and Savior. There is no one except me. ²²Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth, because I am God, and there is no other. ²³I have sworn by myself. From my mouth a righteous

word has gone out, and it will not return unfulfilled. Indeed, to me every knee will bow, and every tongue will swear allegiance. ²⁴“Only in the LORD,” they will say of me, “Only in the LORD is there true righteousness and strength.” To him they will come and be ashamed—all those who are angry at him. ²⁵In the LORD, all the descendants of Israel will be justified. They will be praised by him.

HYMN 56 IN PLACE OF PSALM

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

**Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place-
Can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found his favor.**

**Angels sang about his birth;
Wise men sought and found him.
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth,
Glory all around them.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing.
All the plains were lit that night;
All the hills were ringing.**

**Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled,
But no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise his name in all the earth, Hail the King of glory!**

Text: Joseph S. Cook, 1859-1933.

SECOND LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

¹²Therefore, as God’s elect, holy and loved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against anyone else. Forgive, just as Christ forgave you. ¹⁴And, in addition to all these things, put on love, which ties things together in perfect unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, to which you were also called, in one body. And be thankful.

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And everything you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia.
(Colossians 3:15a)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

Luke 2:25-40

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷Moved by the Spirit he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law, ²⁸Simeon took him into his arms and praised God. He said,

²⁹Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace, according to your word, ³⁰because my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared before the face of all people, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

³³Joseph and the child's mother were amazed at the things that were spoken about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Listen carefully, this child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against, ³⁵so that the thoughts

of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶Anna, a prophetess, was there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She had lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷and then she was a widow of eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple complex, since she was worshipping with fasting and prayers night and day. ³⁸Standing nearby at that very hour, she gave thanks to the Lord. She kept speaking about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had accomplished everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town, Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God’s favor was on him.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY – 41

Let All Together Praise Our God

**Let all together praise our God
Before his highest throne;
Today he opens heav’n again
And gives us his own Son,
And gives us his own Son.**

**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.**

**He veils in flesh his pow’r divine
A servant’s form to take;
In want and lowliness must die
Who heav’n and earth did make,
Who heav’n and earth did make.**

**A wondrous change which he does make:
He takes our flesh and blood,
And he conceals for sinners’ sake
His majesty as God,
His majesty as God.**

He serves that I a lord may be-
A great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love do more for me
To help me in my need,
To help me in my need?

For us he opens wide the door
Of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more;
To God our thanks we pay,
To God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

Sermon

Colossians 3:12-17

New Clothes for Christmas

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

WE BELIEVE in one holy Christian 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.

Prayer of the Church

“Now Rejoice!”

A Carol Setting for Holy Communion

THE PREFACE *(Good Christian Friends, Rejoice)*

Pastor: Oh, may the good Lord be with you.

Cong: And may the Lord be with you too.

Pastor: Lift your hearts to Him in praise.

Cong: To the Lord our hearts we raise.

Pastor: Let us offer praises true.

Cong: It is fitting so to do:

Gratefully we sing

To the Lord, our King!

THE PROPER PREFACE *Pastor*

THE SANCTUS *(As With Gladness Men of Old CW #83)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of hosts, by all adored:

Heav'n and earth cannot contain

All the glory of Your Name!

With the heav'nly host we sing

Highest praises to our King:

Hail! Hosanna! Endless fame

Be to Him who, in God's name,

Now draws nigh with us to dwell,

Jesus our Emmanuel!

Hail! Hosanna! Praises be

To the Lord eternally!

THE CONSECRATION *Pastor*

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Away in a Manger CW#68)*

Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name!

Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same

By mortals and angels, Come, Lord, reign alone:

Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away:
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear.

For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things Your reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION

For our Visitors: “*May I receive the Lord’s Supper here today?*”

The Lord’s Supper is a priceless medicine for the soul. We do everything we can to encourage its proper use. We also recognize from God’s Word (1 Corinthians 11:23-32) that this medicine is a prescription item. Used for the wrong reasons by someone who does not understand it correctly, the Lord’s Supper can actually cause spiritual harm. For that reason we, like the corner druggist, do not dispense it over-the-counter. Out of concern for each individual’s spiritual welfare, we try to ensure that communion will be properly used by all in accord with our Lord’s own will. We ask that if you have not received this sacrament here before, to please refrain from communing until you have had an opportunity to talk with one of our pastors.

We also offer a light color non-alcoholic wine in the center of the tray for those who cannot have alcohol because of medical conditions

THE THANKSGIVING (*Angels from the Realms of Glory CW #80*)

Thank the Lord, His praises voicing
For His promised faithfulness!
All who seek the Lord, rejoicing
Tell His love, His name confess,
For He leads us, with thanksgiving
In the paths of righteousness.

At Your Word, Lord, let Your servant
Go in peace, for with my eyes
I have seen Your bright salvation,
Israel’s Light, begin to rise
As the Glory of the nations,
Leading us to Paradise.

THE PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION (*O Little Town of Bethlehem CW #65*)

**Pastor: Now may the good Lord bless and keep,
His love in you increase;
Lift up His face with shining grace,
And grant eternal peace.**

**Cong: To Father, Son, and Spirit,
Eternal One-in Three,
Be thanks and praise through all our days
And to eternity!**

Now Rejoice! A carol setting for Holy Communion was written by Arden W. Mead. © Copyright 1986. **Creative Communications**, 10300 Watson Road, St. Louis, MO 63127

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SERVING US TODAY

Preacher – Pastor Benjamin B. Wessel
Organist – Dee Ann Techlin