



First Sunday after Christmas
December 29, 2024

Now it must indeed excite wonder that such things were proclaimed openly by Simeon in that public and sacred place with reference to that poor and insignificant child, whose mother was so humble and lowly and whose father Joseph was not wealthy. How could such a child be considered the Saviour of all men, the light of the Gentiles and the glory and honor of all Israel? At present, after we have had so many proofs of Christ's greatness, these words do no longer seem so wonderful; but then, when nothing as yet was known of Jesus, they were indeed marvelous, and this lowly child was very unlike the great and mighty being portrayed by Simeon. But Joseph and Mary believed it nevertheless, and just therefore they marveled. If they had not believed it, the words of Simeon would have appeared to them insignificant, untrue and worthless, and not at all wonderful. Therefore, the fact that they were marveling, shows that Joseph and Mary possessed a strong and sublime faith.

Anna did not only give thanks unto God but she also spoke of him to all them that were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. Luke has a special reason for adding that Anna spoke of Christ only to those who were looking for the redemption. There were certainly not many of them, and none at all among the highly educated priests. What could these great, holy and cultured people learn of such an old foolish woman! They considered themselves the real leaders of the people. Thus the words of Anna were undoubtedly despised by these great gentlemen. For the Word of God concerning Christ must necessarily be contemptible, foolish, heretical, sacrilegious and presumptuous to the ears of these great, learned and spiritual men. Therefore it is only received by the hungering, longing souls that look for the redemption, as Luke says here, who feel their sin and desire grace, light and consolation, who know nothing of any wisdom and righteousness of their own.

—Martin Luther; Sermon from Church Postil of 1522.

Welcome
We are thankful you have joined us today!

Hymn God Loves Me Dearly | 392

Entrance Psalm [Ps. 98:1-4; antiphon: Is 52:10]
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.

**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; in the sight of the nations.

**He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
breath forth into joyous song and sing praises!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

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.

Please stand.

Confession & Absolution

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

[Matt 28:19b; 18-20]

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord, [Hebrews 10:22] **who made heaven and earth.** [Psalm 124:8] I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.** [Psalm 32:5]

Quiet time for self-examination and confession

O almighty God, merciful Father, **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** [John 20:19-23]

Prayer of the Day

[2 Timothy 4:22]

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray... *[silence for individual prayer]* 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. **Amen.**

Please be seated

Hymn Angels from the Realms of Glory | 367

Readings from God's Word

The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus:

The LORD said to Moses, "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."

Then 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..."

"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, you 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. Every 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. And 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. For 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.' [Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15]

Time for reflection.

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

The Epistle Reading is from Colossians:

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing 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. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let 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. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him

[Colossians 3:12-17]

Time for reflection.

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

Please stand to greet the Gospel reading singing the Alleluia:



The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke:

Glory to You, O Lord.

And when 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 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." 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. 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. 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, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 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 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

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, 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. 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.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. [Luke 2:22-40]

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**
Please be seated.

Children's Talk

[Mark 10:14-16; Matt 19:14; Luke 18:16-17]

The children are invited forward for a message based on today's Scripture readings led by Pastor Fitch.

Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain | **388**

Sermon

Please stand.

Our Confession of Faith

Please stand to confess the Apostles' Creed printed on the inside back cover of the hymnal.

Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Please be seated

Offering

In Person | Mail to Church | Bank Bill Pay

Please stand.



Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God | **895**

Sacrament of the Altar

[2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136]

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

The Holy, Holy, Holy

[Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9]

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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. [Matt 6:9-13]

The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat: this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

[Mt 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25]

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.** [Jn 20:19]

Lamb of God [John 1:29]

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. **A - men.**

Please be seated and come forward at the direction of the ushers.

Distribution of Holy Communion/Hymns

The Lord's Supper is a meal for disciples of Jesus who have been baptized and taught (as our Lord says in Matthew 28). Those who have confessed their sins, acknowledge Jesus as their Savior from sin, believe that with the bread and the wine Christ truly gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, desire to commit themselves to Him in loving obedience, and share the faith confessed at this altar, are welcome to participate. If you have any doubts or questions about the gift of the Lord's Supper, we ask that you consult with the pastor or an elder. Children are invited to come to the altar with their parents to receive a blessing.

If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, please inform an usher or the pastor. The pastor will bring the gifts to you in your seat.

Hymns

Choir Chimes

In His Temple Now Behold Him | **519**

As with Gladness Men of Old | **397**

Post Communion Song

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de-part in peace ac-cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast pre-pared be-fore the face of all people, a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo-ry of Thy peo-ple Is-ra-el. Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. **A-men.**

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray...one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Announcements

[Galatians 6:10]

Please stand.

Benediction

[Numbers 6:24-26]

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you \dagger peace. **Amen.** [Numbers 6:24-26]

Hymns

O God, Our Help in Ages Past | **733**

Postlude

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Faith Lutheran Church, Preschool & Extended Childcare

A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

The purpose of this congregation shall be to serve its members and community and to spread the Kingdom of God by preaching the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments and by the religious instruction of youth and adults, according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church, and to foster Christian fellowship and charity. It shall also be the purpose and the responsibility of this congregation to provide a Christian and parochial education for its children to the best of its ability.

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