

# Order of Worship for January 3, 2021

## 2nd Sunday in the Season of Christmas

### Welcome

### Dialogue

Who are these angels who come to earth, bearing the news of the Christ child's birth?  
Who are these shepherds who run to see, and worship the babe on bended knee?  
Who is this child, so small, so slight, of whom the angels sang that night?  
Who is this king, a manger his throne, who humbles himself to make us his own?  
Who is this God who sends a Son into our midst, the promised one?

### Greeting and Prayer

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above,  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Psalm 147:12-20

12Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,

**13who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**

14God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**15God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**

16God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.

**17God scatters hail like bread crumbs.**

### **Who can stand against God's cold?**

18The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

19**God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

20The Lord has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

### **Psalm song: God's Word is among us (Psalm 147) by Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan**

*God's Word is among us! Hallelujah!*

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### **Children's Sermon**

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 61:10--62:3**

*To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.*

10I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being 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 with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

62:1For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

2The nations shall see your vindication,  
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.

### **Gospel: Luke 2:22-40**

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

22When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), 24and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated 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; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested 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 Messiah. 27Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, 28Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

29"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;

30for my eyes have seen your salvation,

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

32a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel."

33And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed 35so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

36There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 38At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

## Sermon from Interim Bishop Andrea DeGroot Nesdahl

### Hymn: In the Bleak Midwinter

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| <p>1 In the bleak midwinter,<br/>frosty wind made moan,<br/>earth stood hard as iron,<br/>water like a stone;<br/>snow had fallen, snow on snow,<br/>snow on snow,<br/>in the bleak midwinter,<br/>long ago.</p> <p>2 Heaven cannot hold him,<br/>nor earth sustain;<br/>heav'n and earth shall flee away<br/>when he comes to reign;</p> | <p>3 What can I give him,<br/>poor as I am?<br/>If I were a shepherd<br/>I would bring a lamb;<br/>if I were a wise man<br/>I would do my part;<br/>yet what I can I give him—<br/>give my heart.</p> | <p>in the bleak midwinter<br/>a stable place sufficed<br/>the Lord God almighty,<br/>Jesus Christ.</p> |
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### Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Guide the work of environmentalists and scientists as they seek to heal and protect your creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit

of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. Grant wisdom to leaders at every level of government, that they might govern with compassion. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness. Reveal your power to heal and to save. Grant your healing presence to all who are struggling during this Covid-19 pandemic-- those who are sick, those who are dying, those who mourn the loss of loved ones, those who are overwhelmed, those who cannot make ends meet, those who feel like hope is lost. Help them all to feel your care and presence. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. For all your saints, we give you thanks. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who was in the beginning,  
who makes a dwelling among us,  
who covers us with justice and mercy.  
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**God of goodness and lovingkindness,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
and our neighbors.**

**We have turned away from your invitation to new life.**

**We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.**

**In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,  
those we know and those known only to you,  
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins,

not through our own work,

but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.

With all who come to the manger,

rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

**Amen.**

### **HOLY COMMUNION-- DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
Amen.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Friends of Jesus, receive nourishment for your journey. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Receive the body of Christ, given for you.  
Receive the blood of Christ, shed for you.

*All are invited to eat and drink the communion elements they brought with them. If desired, individuals from the same household may serve each other.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn: Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming**

**1** Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
as seers of old have sung,  
it came, a flow'r so bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half-spent was the night.

**2** Isaiah had foretold it,  
the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
she bore to us a Savior,  
when half-spent was the night

## **Blessing**

Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

### **BY THE NUMBERS**

Check Register Balance 12/26/2020  
\$15,530.97  
Operating Bank Loan: \$4,512.27  
PPP Loan Balance:\$16,984 (Forgiven)

**Offering:**12/27/20  
Current: \$2,490.00  
Lutheran Chaplaincy: \$390.00  
Parsonage Internet: \$60

**Worship Online only until Jan 17: For worship planning purposes, the Reopening Committee has decided to continue with online only worship for January 3, and January 10.** January 3 is the 2nd Sunday in the season of Christmas, and January 10 will be the Sunday of Epiphany. This will allow us to include more music in these services. Holding worship online these 2 Sundays will also help us get past any post-Christmas spike in coronavirus cases that we may have. **We will plan on resuming in-person worship on January 17, if case counts fall within our established metrics**, with live streaming for those who are uncomfortable attending in person.

(Public health experts have said that there may be a spike in cases for a couple of weeks past Christmas, depending on what transmission may have happened during any Christmas celebrations. Confirmed cases lag about 2 weeks behind dates of transmission, and rises in hospitalizations are 2 around weeks behind that, and rises in deaths are around 2 weeks behind that. Iowa was lucky enough to \*not\* experience this expected spike after Thanksgiving, but to be safe, we will wait and see what happens after Christmas.)

**Annual Congregational Meeting/Budget Hearing:** The 2021 Budget Hearing presentation has been scheduled for Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via a Zoom meeting for anyone who wishes to see or comment on the proposed budget for American Lutheran Church prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting. A link will be provided to attend the meeting when information is emailed for the Sunday worship services. Arrangements can be made for anyone who wishes to attend in person at the church by calling/texting Pastor Kristen at (563) 212-1366 or Maureen Even at (563) 880-8872 by 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 9, 2021. Social distancing & mask guidelines will be used while in the church.

This year we will be providing two options for the Annual Congregational Meeting for American Lutheran Church which will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2021. A person may attend either in person after the 9:00 a.m. worship service (if we are meeting in person at that time) or at 10:00 a.m. via a Zoom meeting. A link will be provided at a later date. The Snow Date for the Annual Congregational Meeting will be January 31, 2021 following the same time schedule as listed above.

**Women's Bible Study:** Bible study January 7, 2020, 9:30 AM. Gather resource study "Journeys with Angels." New friends welcome. Contact Pastor Kristen for a zoom link.

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