

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 3, 2021

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Deerfield Beach, Florida

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us.

Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

We Gather

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to Zion **where, following Jesus, we invite, equip, and serve our neighbors and one another!**

CONFESSION & 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 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.**

GATHERING SONG

"Word of God, Come Down on Earth" (Verse 1)



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

GLORIA

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (Verse 1 and Refrain)



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 31:7-14

⁷Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM: PSALM 147:12-20

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

¹³**who 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.

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

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

¹⁷**God 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!

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 1:3-14

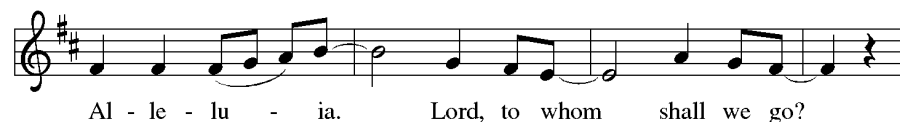
³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the
heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the
foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him
in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through
Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to
the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us
in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his
blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the
riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom
and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will,
according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,
¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in
him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we
have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined
according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all
things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who
were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the
praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the
word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed
in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy

Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward
redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: JOHN 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter...

Glory to you, O Lord!

[¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with
God. ³All things came into being through him, and without
him not one thing came into being. What has come into
being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all
people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness
did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was
John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all
might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but
he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which
enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being
through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to
what was his own, and his own people did not accept
him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were

born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Love Has Come" (Verses 1 and 2)



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

CREED

Together with Christians of every time, place, and space, let us 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly 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 with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition: ...Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

And also with you.

OFFERING

This is the time in our worship to give thanks to God for your blessings. How is God blessing you and calling you to bless others? We invite your support of ongoing and growing ministries at Zion.

We Feast on the Body & Blood of Christ

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

Holy and mysterious God,
in the beginning the darkness waited,
and you created light.
Sarah and Abraham waited for a future,
and you sent descendants greater than the stars.
The Hebrew slaves waited for rescue,
and you sent Miriam and Moses to enact your liberation.
Israel waited in exile for renewal,
and you empowered prophets and poets
with your life-giving speech.

As the whole world groaned in waiting
for release and rebirth,
you sent Jesus, born of strong Mary,
fathered by humble Joseph,
incarnate in our humility,
in solidarity with the suffering and the poor,
full of wisdom and grace for 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.

Send your Spirit into this broken world,
into our hopeful, imperfect gathering,
and on this sacred bread and wine
so we may be healed and whole again
and be filled with the courage to love.

Come, Holy Spirit!

All praise, and thanks to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,
here and now and into the great beyond.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER

Let us pray...We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

We Are Sent Forth to Love & Serve

ANNOUNCEMENTS

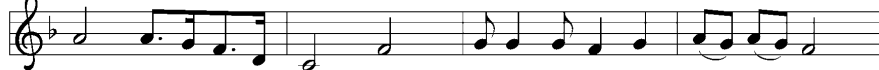
BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (Refrain)

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended; now the service begins.
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus!
Thanks be to God!

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