

Welcome to Gethsemane!

Sunday, December 27, 2020

SEEING OUR SALVATION

AS WE GATHER

The Gospel for the First Sunday after Christmas takes us to the temple in Jerusalem, where Jesus is brought by Mary and Joseph. In presenting Him there, they are affirming that He is dedicated to God as a firstborn son. But He is much more than a son—He is the Son. In her classic hymn text, German hymnist Elisabeth Cruciger celebrates His coming as she writes, “The only Son from heaven, foretold by ancient seers, By God the Father given, In human form appears. No sphere His light confining, No star so brightly shining As He, our Morning Star” (LSB 402:1). Jesus is the One in whom we see our salvation, whose light guides our way through life, and whose presence enlightens our world. With joy, we worship Him!

OPENING HYMN LSB 368 *ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH, verses 1, 2*

1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. **Refrain**

ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song? **Refrain**

INVOCATION

L In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Luke 2:30, 32; Psalm 71:19, 23

L Alleluia! My eyes have seen Your salvation,

C a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. Alleluia!

L Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.

C You who have done great things, O God, who is like You?

L My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to You;

C my soul also, which You have redeemed.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L People redeemed by the Lord, let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

C Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of having sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not lived our lives fully in the freedom won for us by our Lord. We have not always shared the

bounty You have given us as stewards of Your creation. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus, our Savior. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.

L God has promised pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son, who has replaced slavery to sin with a priceless inheritance of freedom and joy. Let us rejoice together, dear sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus, all our sins have been forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

C **Amen.**

LSB 368 *ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH* sts. ref, 3

3 Come to Bethlehem and see

Him whose birth the angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee

Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**

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ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

SALUTATION

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L 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. 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.

C **Amen.**

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:10—62:3 *NIV*

I delight greatly in the LORD;
my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch.

² The nations will see your vindication,
and all kings your glory;

you will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.

³ You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING

Galatians 4:4–7 NIV

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.^[a] ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba,^[b] Father.” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”^[a]), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”^[b]

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss^[c] your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of

many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. ^[d] She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

LSB 384 OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN sts. 1–2, 4

1 Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

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SERMON MESSAGE: "My Eyes Have Seen"

APOSTLES' CREED

**☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- L** Gathered as God's people and as heirs of an eternal inheritance, let us pray for the whole Church and for all who bear the name of Jesus Christ, who is our Light and our Salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- L** Give us faith to acknowledge and rejoice in the fellowship that we share in Christ with people here and in every place, that we may see in each sister and brother in Christ a reflection of Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- L** Lord of all, watch over our nation and grant Your divine favor to all who bear office in our land, especially the president and Congress of the United States, the governor

and legislature of Texas, and to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. Help them to serve all those in their care according to Your holy will, that we may live in peace and safety.

Save us from pestilence and plague, for unseasonable weather, and the dangers that are ever-present in our lives. Grant us Your blessing as one calendar year closes and another begins. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Give a special measure of blessing to those with special needs. Especially we remember the sick, the shut-in, those dealing with depression, those who sorrow, and others known to us who at this time are in need of prayer. Help us to be people who bless, encourage, and strengthen all those in our circles of relationship and beyond. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Sovereign Lord, we remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors, [*especially . . .*]. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven. Bless the communion we share on earth as we await the Supper of the Lamb in His kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

C Amen.

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

L It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, because You have called us through the waters of Holy Baptism and welcomed us to Your Table of grace. As we rejoice in the salvation won for us by our Savior, give us faith to heed the call to share the Gospel message throughout the world so that many may come to feast in Your eternal kingdom with all of the faithful of all time. Therefore with angels and archangels

and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify
Your glorious name, forevermore praising You and saying:

LSB 384 OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

st. 5

△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

□ We give thanks to You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love that He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His

salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C **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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

L Our Pastor has properly blessed these elements and so now, as we prepare to receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, let us remember together Jesus' Words of Institution.

© 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.”

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMN +

LSB 393 *INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY*

- 1 Infant holy, Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, Angels singing,
Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

- 2 Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, Heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

L Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, assuring us, thereby, that we are truly members of His Body, the Church. And we ask You to help us by Your Holy Spirit that we continue in this fellowship and do the good works that You desire us to do, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom with You and the same Spirit be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

L Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all of God's people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you and keep you and give you peace.

C Amen.

ref **Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

1 While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. **Refrain**

3 Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessèd Christmas morn. **Refrain**

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