

January 4, 2026

*Second Sunday after Christmas-
8:00 am Morning Prayer*



The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. *Luke 2:40*

Christ Our Savior Ev Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Saint Augustine, Florida

Rev. Mark B. Stirdivant

<https://coselc.org/>

Order of Morning Prayer

Stand

Versicles

LSB 235

P O Lord, open my lips,



C and my mouth shall de-clare Your praise.



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Psalmody

P Give glory to God, our light and our life.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite

LSB 236



C O come, let us sing to the Lord;



let us make a joy-ful noise to the rock of our sal-va - tion.



I Let us come in - to His pres - ence with thanks - giv - ing;



let us make a joy - ful noise to Him with songs of praise.



II For the Lord is a great God and a great king a - bove all gods.



I In His hand are the depths of the earth;



the heights of the moun - tains are His al - so.



II The sea is His, for He made it;



and His hand formed the dry land.



I O come, let us wor - ship and bow down;



let us kneel be - fore the Lord, our mak - er.



II For He is our God, and we are the peo - ple



of His pas - ture and the sheep of His hand.



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

P Give glory to God, our light and our life.

C (sung) **O** come, let us worship Him.

to keep your just and righteous decrees.

P ¹⁰⁷I am severely afflicted;*

give me life, O LORD, according to your word!

C ¹⁰⁸Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD,*
and teach me your just decrees.

P ¹⁰⁹I hold my life in my hand continually,*
but I do not forget your law.

C ¹¹⁰The wicked have laid a snare for me,*
but I do not stray from your precepts.

P ¹¹¹Your testimonies are my heritage forever,*
for they are the joy of my heart.

C ¹¹²I incline my heart to perform your statutes*
forever, to the end.

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.

Sit

866 Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, the chil - dren's friend, To each of
2 In Chris - tian homes, Lord, let them be Your bless - ing
3 That car - ing par - ents, gra - cious Lord, And faith - ful
4 For by Your Word we clear - ly see That we have



them Your pres - ence send; Call them by name and
to their fam - i - ly; Let Chris - tian schools Your
teach - ers find re - ward In lead - ing these, to
sinned con - tin - ual - ly; But show us too, for -



keep them true In lov - ing faith, dear Lord, to You.
work ex - tend In liv - ing truth as You in - tend.
whom You call, To find in Christ their all in all.
giv - ing Lord, Your sav - ing Gos - pel's great re - ward.

5 That all of us, Your children dear,
By Christ redeemed, may Christ revere;
Lead us in joy that all we do

Will witness to our love for You.
6 Then guard and keep us to the end,
Secure in You, our gracious friend,
That in Your heav'nly family
We sing Your praise eternally.

Text: Henry L. Lettermann, 1932-96

Tune: William Knapp, 1698-1768

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Readings

Reading

1 Kings 3

P A reading from 1 Kings, chapter 3.

¹Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt. He took Pharaoh's daughter and brought her into the city of David until he had finished building his own house and the house of the LORD and the wall around Jerusalem. ²The people were sacrificing at the high places, however, because no house had yet been built for the name of the LORD.

³Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father, only he sacrificed and made offerings at the high places. ⁴And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

¹⁶Then two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. ¹⁷The one woman said, “Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house, and I gave birth to a child while she was in the house. ¹⁸Then on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. And we were alone. There was no one else with us in the house; only we two were in the house. ¹⁹And this woman’s son died in the night, because she lay on him. ²⁰And she arose at midnight and took my son from beside me, while your servant slept, and laid him at her breast, and laid her dead son at my breast. ²¹When I rose in the morning to nurse my child, behold, he was dead. But when I looked at him closely in the morning, behold, he was not the child that I had borne.” ²²But the other woman said, “No, the living child is mine, and the dead child is yours.” The first said, “No, the dead child is yours, and the living child is mine.” Thus they spoke before the king.

²³Then the king said, “The one says, ‘This is my son that is alive, and your son is dead’; and the other says, ‘No; but your son is dead, and my son is the living one.’” ²⁴And the king said, “Bring me a sword.” So a sword was brought before the king. ²⁵And the king said, “Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other.” ²⁶Then the woman whose son was alive said to the king, because her heart yearned for her son, “Oh, my lord, give her the living child,

and by no means put him to death.” But the other said, “He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide him.” ²⁷Then the king answered and said, “Give the living child to the first woman, and by no means put him to death; she is his mother.” ²⁸And all Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him to do justice.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Ephesians 1:3–23

P A reading from Ephesians, chapter 1.

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, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that

the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Luke 2:40–52

P A reading from Luke, chapter 2.

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know

that I must be in my Father's house?"⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

First Sunday Catechism

The Creed, LSB 322

P How the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household:

What is the First Article?

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

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

What is the Second Article?

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

What is the Third Article?

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Sermon

Rev'd Mark B. Stirdivant

Stand

Benedictus

LSB 238

Bless - ed be the Lord, the God of Is - ra - el;
He has come to His peo - ple and re - deemed them.
He has raised up for us a might - y Sav - ior,
born of the house of His ser - vant Da - vid.
Through His ho - ly proph - ets He prom - ised of old
that He would save us from our en - e - mies, from the hands of all who
hate us. He prom - ised to show mer - cy to our fa - thers
and to re - mem - ber His ho - ly cov - e - nant.
This was the oath He swore to our fa - ther A - bra - ham:
to set us free from the hands of our en - e - mies,



free to wor-ship Him with-out fear, ho-ly and



righteous in His sight all the days of our life.



L You, my child, shall be called the proph-et of the Most High,



for you will go be-fore the Lord to pre-pare His way,



to give His peo-ple knowl-edge of sal-va-tion by the for-give-ness



of their sins. In the ten-der com-pas-sion of our God,



the dawn from on high shall break up-on us



to shine on those who dwell in dark-ness and the shad-ow of death



and to guide our feet in-to the way of peace.



G Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the



Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin-ning,



is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Collect

P O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect

P Visit, O Lord, the homes in which Your people dwell, and keep all harm and danger far from them. Grant that we may dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels, sharing eternally in Your blessings; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Collect for Grace

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Lord's Prayer

LSB 241

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

Stand

Benedicamus

LSB 241

P Let us bless the Lord.



Benediction

LSB 242

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son,
and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.



375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the
2 Christ, from heav'n to us de-scend-ing And in
3 Ja-cob's star in all its splen-dor Beams with
4 From the bond-age that op-pressed us, From sin's



Lord with glad-ness prais-ing; Loud-ly sing His love a-
love our race be-friend-ing; In our need His help ex-
com-fort sweet and ten-der, Forc-ing Sa-tan to sur-
fet-ters that pos-sessed us, From the grief that sore dis-



maz-ing, Wor-thy folk of Chris-ten-dom.
tend-ing, Saved us from the wi-ly foe.
ren-der, Break-ing all the pow'rs of hell.
tressed us, We, the cap-tives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing
That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent.

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