**Worship Plan for Sunday, January 2, 2022**

2 Christmas

Second Sunday of Christmas

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

Sunday, January 2, 2022

**Introduction to the day**

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.

**RECORD**

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Greeting**

Welcome to worship today, we are glad to have you with our Faith Lutheran Church community. I'm Pr. John Barton and I will be leading our service today.

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

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.**

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

**Announcements**

Out of an abundance of caution, we will continue to require masks while meeting at Faith Lutheran Church.

Tuesday, the 4th: Hymn Planners meet at 2:00 on Zoom

Wednesday, the 5th: Bible Study Leaders meet at 9:30; WELCA Board meeting at 2:00 in person; Endowment Board meets at 3:00 on Zoom

Friday, the 7th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, the 8th: Altar Guild meets at 10:00 to put away Christmas decor

Other: As a step towards normalcy, Pastor's official office hours will resume as Monday and Wednesday 9:30- 5.

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office. Thank you!

**And now please turn to page 282**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song*It Came upon the Midnight Clear* (ELW 282)**

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**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who forgives all our sin,

whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day**

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.**

**Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**First Reading:**

A reading from Jeremiah.

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.**

**Psalm:**

12Worship the Lord, **|** O Jerusalem;  
  praise your **|** God, O Zion,  
 13**who has strengthened the bars | of your gates**  
  **and has blessed your chil- | dren 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.** R  
 16God gives **|** snow like wool,  
  scattering **|** frost like ashes.  
 17**God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.**  
  **Who can stand a- | gainst 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 judg- | ments to Israel.**  
 20The Lord has not done so to any **|** other nation;  
  they do not know God’s judgments. **|** Hallelujah! R

**Second Reading:**

A reading from Ephesians.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel:**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

  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**

**And now please turn to page 296**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day*What Child Is This* (ELW 296)**

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**ASSISTING MINISTER**

We continue as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**Pastor and Assisting Minister**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

You make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms. Draw our attention to those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all in need (especially). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You journey with us through change. Guide those assuming new roles in this congregation or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities (especially). As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service (especially Wilhelm Loehe, whom we commemorate today). Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**Prayer List**

Susan Aldrich; Gloria Anderson; Arnette Calkins; Luca Candela; Julie Chevraux; Robin Connelly; Daniel Conner; Christopher Cook; Vicki Crow; Sally Duncan; Roger and Carole Erickson; Joni Gray; Kally Homchick; Marlon Jay; Francis Key; Loni Knowles; Sandra Miller; Carol Morris; Pat Myers; Sheila Neal; Ron Neumen; Andrew Quinn; the family and friends of Edy Rose; JoAnne Schriock; Dee Seel; Sharon Seims; Jan Simon; Amy Sinclair; Earlean Wagner; Diana Ward; Bernie Weston; Mary Yturralde; the homebound; the Emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery/tests.  We especially pray for those affected by COVID-19 and those who have lost loved ones. At this time we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts.

If you would like your name added to our prayer list, please contact the church office.

**Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Peace be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

**Offering**

At this time, we remember that the giving of our offering is an authentic part of worship.

Thank you so much for all the ways you give and help to make the ministries of this church possible!

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue (ELW p. 152)**

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.**

**Preface (ELW p. 153)**

*The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season:*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;

in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;

and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy (ELW p. 153)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**Lord God of pow’r and might:**

**Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**INSTRUCTION FOR COMMUNION**

Now, I invite you to gather bread and drink for communion and share with anyone in your household.

As a note, it helps to take the wafer off first then the juice separately afterward.

Gathering at Christ's table, we trust in God's all-reaching power and grace to provide each one of us the complete and total sacrament in these extraordinary times

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**And now please turn to page 836**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (ELW 836)**

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**Blessing**

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.**

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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