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**Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor**  
**David B. Richards, Parish Musician**  
**Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant**



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*During the Prayers of Intercession, you are invited to add your own prayer(s) either in speech or in silence as indicated by the line: "Other intercessions may be added here." You may wish to use this insert to write down your prayer(s) which you may then offer aloud during that time. If you wish to have your prayers added to the Prayer of the Church during the coming weeks, please remove and place this card in an offering plate.*

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## SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*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.*

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### **HOLY COMMUNION**

#### ***EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP***

#### **GATHERING**

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

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **\*CHRISTMAS CALL TO WORSHIP**

Here is the emptiness of my night  
    may it be filled with your glory  
Here are the silences of my heart  
    may they be filled with your songs

Here is the watchfulness of my eyes  
    may they be opened to wonder  
Here is the listening of my soul  
    may it hear the joy of your love

Here is the hopefulness of my journey  
    may it lead me swift to your side  
Here is the searching of my anxious mind  
    may it find rest in your peace

Here is the wood and straw of my days  
    may they be a bed for your presence  
And here is the humble cave of my life  
    may it be your home, gentle Savior.

*by lectionary poet Andrew King*

- 1 The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

- 2 They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

- 3 And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

- 4 This star drew near to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

- 5 Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

Text: English traditional

## GREETING

The grace that is Christ's gift to us, the love of God, and the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## \*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

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*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



The Holy Gospel according to St. John...  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

The gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

\*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.

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered in silence or spoken softly.*

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith, especially... With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. 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.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

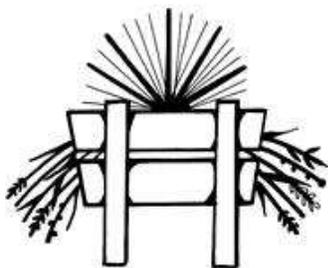
**MEAL**

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



## \*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 him thanks and praise.**

## \*PREFACE

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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:  
Heaven 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.**

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

*Spoken softly by the congregation.*

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, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**\*BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray. Almighty and Eternal God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the One foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

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*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### \*BLESSING

May Christ, who by his incarnation  
has filled us with grace and truth,  
give you peace this Christmas and always.  
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### \*SENDING HYMN

*I Wonder As I Wander*  
(Sung by leader.)

- 1 I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
For poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.
- 2 When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow's stall,  
Came wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,  
And high from the heavens a star's light did fall,  
The promise of the ages it then did recall.
- 3 If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,  
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,  
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,  
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the king.
- 4 I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
For poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

Words and Music collected by John Jacob Niles.

**\*DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!  
**Peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*Aria*

*Pergolesi*

**SERVING IN THE LITURGY**

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PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Charles Matthies

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

LECTOR

Brandon Michaels

GREETERS

Walter and Judith Cudecki

USHER

Walter Cudecki

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Fred Kuzel



**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in memory of **+Katherine Predny+** on the anniversary of her birth and in memory of **+Mildred Predny Kessler+** on the anniversary of her death.

**Poinsettia plants** may be taken home today following the worship service. Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary with these plants for our Christmas celebrations.

## PRAYER LIST

### *Members of the Congregation:*

Anne Gavac, Helen Gaydusek, Elaine Haase, Shirley Kostelny, Luddy Kovalsky, Robert Melnyk, Dot Myers, Steve Podzamsky, Mary Sasuta, Bob Skudrna and Olga Zavodny

### *Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:*

Kelly Alvey, Paul Bakke, Wally Bisping, Mary Costello, Ramona Daus, Eric Dennison, Denise Fricano, Bill Holmes, Jacob Kavicky, Nicole Kisiel, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Daryle Lauritsen, Lenyce Lawrenson, Delores Linden, Darlene Loughlin, Michele Mason, Donald Neal, Danny Orozco, Pat Pileggi, Dolores Pollitz, Alice Puglise, John Racek, Dr. Craig Reckard, Dale Renville, Sandy Rossella, Ben Smith, Rev. Dave Stefanson, Jim Sward, Harvey Swenson, Jacob Swenson, Gertrude Tarbox, Janie Tarbox, Ralph Thompson, Mark Van Scharrel, Kyle Schardt and Taz Zajac.

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

*Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710 (TFF)*

*Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>*

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.

### **Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering**

**December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2020:</i>	\$2,597.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$ .00
<i>Surplus:</i>	\$ .00