

The Second Sunday of Christmas



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Peachtree City Georgia

January 2, 2022

8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

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The Second Sunday of Christmas ☩ January 2, 2022 ☩ 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.
Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ Congregation *ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal, if you have one at home)*

PRELUDES

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion, so please pick up a prefilled communion "kit" on the altar rail as you approach the altar. Please tell an usher if you need a communion kit brought to you where you sit. At home you may prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate for your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven." We acknowledge that communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Fritz

⬆ CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

- ☐ Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, ☩ who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.
- ☑ Amen.
- ☐ In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace. *Silence is kept for reflection.*
Holy God,
- ☑ **we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition.
We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.
We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.
Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed,
may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**
- ☐ The true light, which enlightens everyone, has come into the world: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. ☩ In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.
- ☑ Amen.

⬆ GATHERING HYMN: *Gather Us In*

ELW Hymn 257

- 1 **Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.**
- 2 **We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.**
- 4 **Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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⬆ 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.**

KYRIE

- L** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mercy.
L For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
 let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mercy.
L For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
 and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mercy.
L For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mercy.
L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **G** Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**ELW Hymn 843*

- I** **Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
 praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
 Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
 calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.**

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
G Amen.

LESSON: Ephesians 1:3-15*—The Message*

- L** Today's Lesson is from Paul's letter to the Ephesian Christians, the first chapter.
I ³⁻⁶How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love.
II Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.
I ⁷⁻¹⁰Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free!
II He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.
I ¹¹⁻¹²It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.
II ¹³⁻¹⁴It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This down payment from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.
L The word of the Lord. **G** Thanks be to God.

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *Goodness Is Stronger than Evil*

ELW Hymn 721

A hymn by Desmond Tutu, civil rights and anti-apartheid hero, who died this week.

**Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death;
Vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours, through God who loves us.
Vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours, through God who loves us.**

Text from *An African Prayer Book* selected by Desmond Tutu, © 1995 by Desmond Tutu. Used by permission of Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc., and Lynn C. Franklin Associates, Ltd.

↑ **HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-18**

Ⓟ The Holy Gospel according John, the first chapter.

Ⓢ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In 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. ⁹**The 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

Pastor Fritz

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Christ, Be Our Light*

ELW Hymn 715

**1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

*Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

**2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. Refrain**

**5 Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. Refrain**

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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↑ **OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED**

Ⓟ Let us confess our baptismal faith together.

Ⓢ **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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*When the petition concludes “Merciful God,” please respond, “receive our prayer.”
The prayers are ended with these words, “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.”
Please respond, “Amen.”*



INVITATION TO OFFERING: *Link to give:* <https://coslutheran.org/give/>

↑ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P** 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; You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:
- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.** *—ELW page 144*

↑ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P** 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.

↑ THE 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.**

SHARING COMMUNION IN THE SANCTUARY OR WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD AT HOME

*As the pastors and worshipers commune, please join them and the whole Church in the sanctuary or remotely by communing each other/yourself with these ancient words of promise:
“The body of Christ for you” and “The blood of Christ for you.”*

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: *Drawn to the Light**ELW Hymn 593*

1 People who walk in darkness have sought a light in the heart of the darkest night.
Just when we thought all would be lost, we were drawn to the light of God.

Refrain: Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh, what a sight to be drawn to the light of God.

2 How can we tell a heaven from hell if ev'ryone dwells in the dark of night?
Morning dispels, gently compels, and we're drawn to the light of God. *Refrain*

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 Text © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker.

↑ PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION

P The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

C Amen.

↑ CLOSING HYMN: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**ELW Hymn 815*

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Text © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Permission for use was granted by the publisher, August, 2021.

↑ DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Tell all of the divine baby who lived among us, Jesus Christ.
Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.

C Thanks be to God.

