



**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
Sunday, December 31, 2017



**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**PRELUDE**

*The congregation is invited to stand*

**INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High, ☩ one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor. Gracious God,

*A period of silent reflection is offered by the congregation*

**C: In Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in ☩ Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN      “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”      ELW 275**

**GREETING      ELW pg. 203**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

see insert

P: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*The congregation is invited to sit*

**FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

see insert

L: The first lesson is from Isaiah, the 61<sup>st</sup> chapter.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise, to spring up before all the nations. <sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L: The word of the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## PSALM 148

see insert

<sup>1</sup>**Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.**

<sup>2</sup>Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

<sup>3</sup>**Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.**

<sup>4</sup>Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.

<sup>5</sup>**Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,**

<sup>6</sup>who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.

<sup>7</sup>**Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;**

<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

<sup>9</sup>**mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;**

<sup>10</sup>wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;

<sup>11</sup>**sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;**

<sup>12</sup>young men and maidens,  
old and young together.

<sup>13</sup>**Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.**

<sup>14</sup>The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

## SECOND LESSON: Galatians 4:4-7

see insert

L: The second lesson is from Galatians, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

L: The word of the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*The congregation is invited to stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW pg.205**

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.  
Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40**

**see insert**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” <sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the

law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P: The gospel of the Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

*The congregation is invited to sit*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON**

**Pastor Jeff Steeber**

*The congregation is invited to stand*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“What Child Is This”**

**ELW 296**

### **NICENE CREED**

**ELW Pg. 104**

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**ELW pg.206**

A: Drawn near to God as children and heirs of Christ's promise, we pray for all people of God, for our nation and our world, and for those in need.

*A brief silence*

A: For the faith communities of this city and for faith communities throughout the world. Help us to see ourselves in our neighbors, especially those who differ from us, and draw us together in common service to those who are hungry, poor, and oppressed. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: For the well-being of the earth as we begin another year entrusted with its care. Give us lively imaginations to see ways to conserve its limited resources, harness its renewable energies, and conform ourselves to its natural goodness. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: For peace among nations, for peace in our homes, and for peace in our hearts. Urge us to cry out at injustice and inequality among your people until vindication comes and righteousness prevails. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For those who wait in the shadow of death, for those who are ill, for those who struggle to see the future, and for all who lack even their basic needs, *especially...* Transform our love toward them with the vision of eyes that have seen the salvation of God. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: For those who cannot see, for those who cannot hear, for those who have varied use of their limbs, and for those able to exercise all the senses. Help us to appreciate the fullness of God's gift of life in our varied abilities, and to celebrate the diversity that reveals a more complete image of the one who makes us all family. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We give thanks for those who have gone before us in this year and now rest in you. Led by Mary and Joseph, Anna and Simeon, let us live in your praise until the day we depart in your peace. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

**C: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The congregation is invited to sit*

## **OFFERING**

*The congregation is invited to stand*

**OFFERING PRAYER**     *The pastor will lead the offering prayer*     **ELW pg.107**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**ELW pg.206**

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.**

## PREFACE

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. 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

ELW pg.207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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.

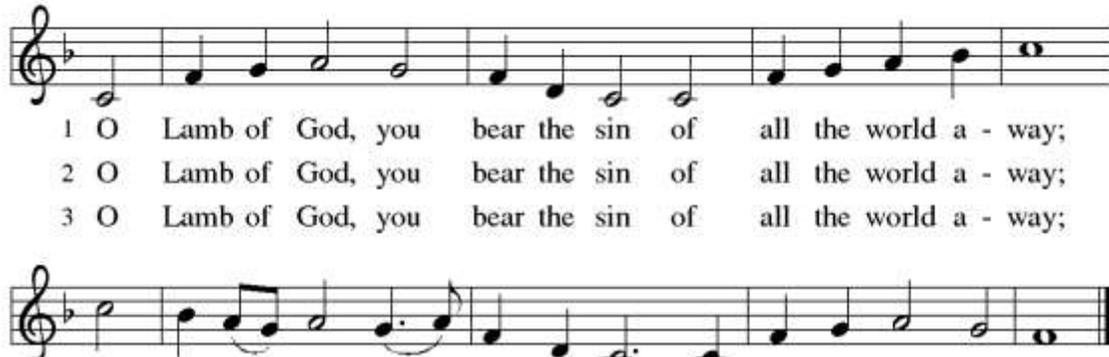
## LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg.208

**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.**

## LAMB OF GOD

ELW pg.208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*The congregation is invited to sit*

## COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS	“Love Has Come”	ELW 292
	“Let All Together Praise Our God”	ELW 287
	“Let the Whole Creation Cry”	ELW 876

*The congregation is invited to stand*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** **ELW pg.114**

**BLESSING** **ELW pg.114**

**SENDING HYMN** **“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”** **ELW 282**

**DISMISSAL** **ELW pg.115**

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