



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship 9:30am
December 27, 2020

(Shhhhh... Please, keep visiting conversations outside the sanctuary as God's people are preparing their hearts and minds for worship...)



"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White wine and diluted red wine are in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Brochures can be found at each door. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

Thoughts on Today’s Readings – Christmas is a once-a-year event. Just a few days ago, we celebrated the birth of Jesus with great joy. Tempting as it is to put Christmas behind us and move on, today’s readings remind us that what happened at Christmas impacts every day of our lives. The consequences of Jesus’ birth were not over for Mary and Joseph. They took Him to Jerusalem, and there He was blessed by Simeon. There Anna gave thanks to God for Him and told everyone she encountered about Him. With Simeon, we are called daily to bless Jesus. With Anna, we are called daily to give thanks for His redeeming us, and to tell others the good news of it. In the Galatians reading, we are reminded that Jesus was born to redeem sinners and to adopt us as sons and daughters of God. This redemption, the status as adopted by God, is there for us every day throughout the year. The Old Testament Reading declares that God “clothes us with garments of salvation” and “covers us with the robe of righteousness,” and in Christ we are assured that this clothing, a covering, is our daily attire all year long. Christmas is a once-a-year event, but its gifts remain with us throughout the year—Christmas Every Day.

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation and Opening Sentences *Psalm 111:1-4, 9*

- P** Gathered in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, people of God, praise the Lord!
- C** **I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.**
- P** Great are the works of the Lord.
- C** **Full of splendor and majesty is His work.**
- P** He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered.
- C** **He sent redemption to His people. Holy and awesome is His name!**

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.
3. All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.
4. For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.**
- P** We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
- C** **We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**
- P** We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.
- C** **For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**
- P** Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
- C** **so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.**
- Amen.**
- P** When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. You are no longer a slave, but a son. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 111

¹Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

²Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

³Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

**⁴He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

⁵He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

⁶He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

⁸they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name!

**¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!**

Epistle

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,
⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse *Luke 2:30, 32*

P Alleluia! **C** Alleluia!

P My eyes have seen Your salvation;

C a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.

P Alleluia! **C** Alleluia!

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22–40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;
³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

“All is Well” sung by Alan Young

Message by Pastor Rennie

The 2nd Article of the Apostles’ Creed and its meaning from Luther’s Small Catechism

C 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.

P What does this mean?

C 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.

Prayer of the Church

P As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, let us pray for the Church, for the world, and for all people according to their needs.

MEN – For the Church throughout the world, that the Word of the Lord dwell richly in us, so that we may shine Christ's light in all the world. God of salvation,

G **hear us who have seen Your glory.**

WOMEN – For people in all parts of the world, that all may be delivered from warfare, oppression, and violence, and live in the peace and safety God intends for all of His creatures. God of salvation,

G **hear us who have seen Your glory.**

MEN – For those who serve in the armed forces of our nation who are far away from home during this joyous season, that they may defend the innocent, maintain justice, and establish peace. By the death and resurrection of Your Son, reconcile us with our enemies that all may bear witness to Your power and peace. God of salvation,

G **hear us who have seen Your glory.**

WOMEN – For those who are sick, facing surgery, or convalescing, that their sickness may be turned to health, and that all sufferers may turn to You in their time of need. God of salvation,

G **hear us who have seen Your glory.**

MEN – For all who travel during this joyous season, that their homecomings may be joyful and their travel safe. God of salvation,

G **hear us who have seen Your glory.**

WOMEN – For guests in worship today, that together as we sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, we may all know the joy of the salvation of our Lord in Jesus Christ. God of salvation,

G **hear us who have seen Your glory.**

MEN – For those who serve in the worship and music ministry of this congregation, we give thanks. Guide us all to appreciate their leading us in giving thanks and praise to You in song. God of salvation,

G **hear us who have seen Your glory.**

WOMEN – For all of the people of this congregation, that, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, we may by our Baptism daily put on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, forgiving one another as we have been forgiven. God of salvation,

G **hear us who have seen Your glory.**

MEN – For those who have gone before us in faith and have died, for Simeon and Anna, we give thanks. Bring us with them when our course on earth is fulfilled to that place of never-ending praise, worship, and thanks to You in heavenly splendor. God of salvation,

G **hear us who have seen Your glory.**

P Basking in the glory and light of Your salvation for us, we entrust all for whom we pray to You, gracious Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

G **Amen.**

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Communion

What Child Is This

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Angels from the Realms of Glory

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

***Come and worship,
come and worship;
Worship Christ,
the newborn King.***

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light.

***Come and worship,
come and worship;
Worship Christ,
the newborn King.***

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star.

***Come and worship,
come and worship;
Worship Christ,
the newborn King.***

4. Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear.

***Come and worship,
come and worship;
Worship Christ,
the newborn King.***

5. All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the_ eternal Three in One.

***Come and worship,
come and worship;
Worship Christ,
the newborn King.***

Nunc Dimittis (*Latin for "Now You dismiss..."*)

- ☐ Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
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.**

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace *(To the tune of "Amazing Grace")*

1. Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,
Your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,
This child so long foretold.
2. This is the Savior of the world,
The Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst,
The joy of Israel.
3. With saints of old, with saints to come,
To You we lift our voice;
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest
Be honor, love, and praise.

Benediction

- P** You are free to go in peace. You have seen the salvation of the Lord. The Word of the Lord has been fulfilled in Jesus, the light of the world.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

- C** Amen.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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