



**Our Savior Lutheran Church  
First Sunday of Christmas - December 31, 2023  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prayer Concerns**

**Sharing of the Peace**

**Call to Worship**

**A:** Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**C:** **Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

**A:** Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

**C:** **Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

**A;** Let us praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and we were created.

**C:** **He established His creation forever and ever. Praise the LORD!**

**Gathering Hymn – Once in Royal David’s City - ELW #269**

## Invocation

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

L: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence for reflection.*

L: God of all life,

**C: you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,  
our resources and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.**

**Where we are reluctant, give us courage.**

**Where we are cynical, restore our trust.**

**Renew us with your grace**

**and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

L: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In +Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

**C: Amen.**

## Greeting

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

**C: And also, with you.**

## Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise – Infant Holy, Infant Lowly - ELW #276

### Prayer of the Day

A: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it.

**C: In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity,**

A: Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## The Word

### First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

<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.

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**<sup>2</sup>Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

<sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

**<sup>4</sup>Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

**<sup>6</sup>He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

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

**<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

<sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

<sup>10</sup>**Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

<sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

<sup>12</sup>**Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!**

### **Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup>But 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40**

\*The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him 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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Message – Tim Leitner, SAM**

[https://youtu.be/Ru35RijjCNk?si=KNhJrjfl\\_pBSpYo](https://youtu.be/Ru35RijjCNk?si=KNhJrjfl_pBSpYo)

**Hymn of the Day – O Come, All Ye Faithful – ELW #283**

**The Apostles’ 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.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

L: Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors and the world God loves.

*A brief silence.*

A: You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are living with disability, bearing invisible illness or other life challenges. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your abundant and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of your creation and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Give hope and stamina to leaders who work for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness. We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from COVID. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectations and departed this life in peace. Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

**C: Amen.**

### **Offering**

**Offertory Hymn – Joy to the World - ELW #267 vs 1 & 2**

### **Offertory Prayer**

A: God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered.

**C: Join our hearts with the song of the angels and gather us at your table of celebration.**

A: Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

**C: Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

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

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



## Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth, as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.

### Communion

#### Post Communion Blessing

L: Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C: Amen.**

#### Post Communion Prayer

A: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth and life.

**C: As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace.**

A: Make us shine with the goodness of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **Benediction**

L: God bless you and keep you,  
+ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Holy Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn – Good Christian Friends, Rejoice– ELW #288**

## **Dismissal**

A: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**