

# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



All who heard him  
were amazed...

Luke 2:47, NRSV

Christmas 1

December 26, 2021



# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany     ◆ Immanuel     ◆ Lunder     ◆ Silver Lake     ◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

Pastors (#590-2737 – cell; email [pastorbill@wctatel.net](mailto:pastorbill@wctatel.net))

Bill Peters

(#590-0727 – cell; email [baldwins@wctatel.net](mailto:baldwins@wctatel.net))

Randy Baldwin

web page - <http://www.wctatel.net/web/oneinchrist>

**Christmas 1**

**December 26, 2021**

## COME, BABY JESUS!

We joyfully welcome all who join us this morning as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth and anticipate our Lord's promised and glorious return. A special welcome to all guests and visitors. John the Baptist prepared us for a baby, now we must prepare the world for a King.

## COME, LORD AND KING!

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.*

*(\* Stand as you are able)*

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### ✠ GATHERING ✠

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God*

### \*CONFESSION

Praise the Lord of the whole universe - the heavens, the angels, the sun, moon and shining stars.

**the earth and everything within it - every animal and bird, every fish and creature of the seas;**  
every mountain and hill, every tree and plant, every ocean, river and stream, praise the Lord

**Praise the Lord every ruler and government, all people of every age and every color.**

Praise the One whose glory the angels sang "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace,  
goodwill among all people."

On this day we pause to sing glory with the angels.

**We sing of peace on all the earth,**

Blessed by the greatness of God's love for us.

**We sing glory to the new born King.**

On this day and every day we sing glory with the angels.

**We work for peace on all the earth,**

Blessed by the birth of Jesus Christ

**We sing of the love brought to birth in us.**

We face the future singing glory with the angels,

**We move forward with love in our hearts,**

Love for others and for ourselves.

**Singing praise, giving thanks and glory to God.**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, we are to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

**These qualities form the warp of our lives - the warp being the vertical threads which form the foundation for weaving. God weaves the threads of our lives together with love.**

When we lack compassion and kindness, the fabric of our relationship with God and with other people has been weakened.

**Forgive us, O God, when we have failed to be compassionate and kind;**

When we struggle to be humble, gentle, and patient, the fabric of our relationship with God and with other people, is weakened.

**Merciful God, weave the threads of our lives and our love in line with your design so that we are indeed clothed with your compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience - all of which were so fully revealed by Jesus.**

Strengthen us with the Holy Spirit so that whatever we do, in word and deed, we do in the name of Jesus, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

**Amen**

## **EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

We are called to bear with one another and to forgive each other, just as the Lord has forgiven us. We are invited to let his peace rule in our hearts and to be thankful, ... and with gratitude in our hearts to sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God. This gratitude is our response to the good news that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **\*OPENING SONG**

*“Good Christians Friends, Rejoice”*

**# 55**

*Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

### **\*APOSTOLIC 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.**

### **\*SHARING THE PEACE**

### **SONGS OF PRAISE**

*Choose two songs*

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

**God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song**

*On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

*Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.*

<sup>18</sup>Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup>His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup>Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

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

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**Colossians 3:12-17**

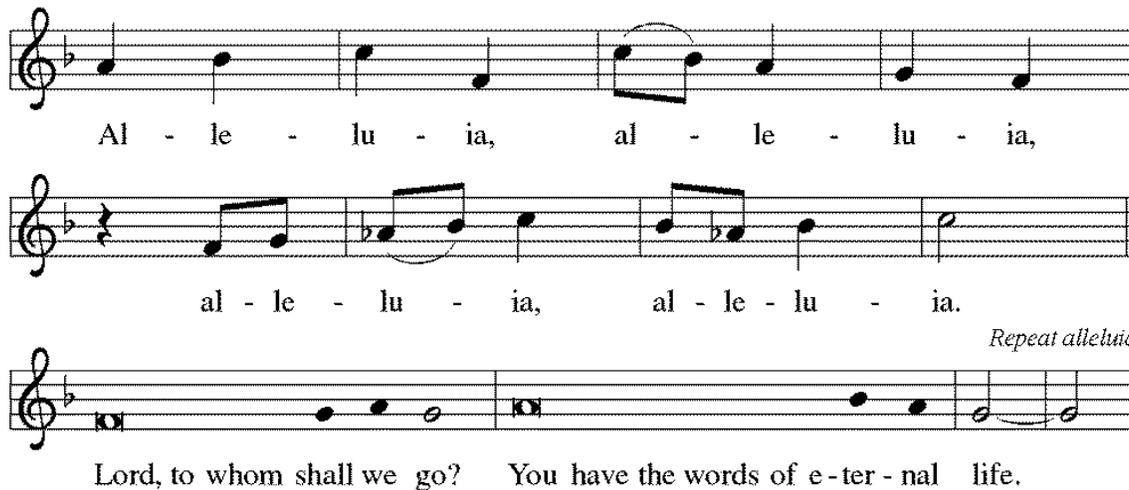
*Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.*

<sup>12</sup>As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

<sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

**\*Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**\*GOSPEL READING**

**Luke 2:41-52**

*Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.*

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>41</sup>Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

<sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.  
<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE  
SERMON**

Pastor Bill

**\*SONGS OF THE DAY**

Choose two songs

**\*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 THE COMMUNITY**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

...Merciful God, receive our prayer.

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**✠ SENDING ✠**

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

**\*BLESSING**

**\*THREE-FOLD AMEN**

**\*RINGING OF THE BELL**

**\*SENDING SONGS**

Choose two songs

**\*THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**✠ THANKSGIVING ✠**

*God invites us to respond to His grace*

**OFFERING**

*Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use Tithe.ly (electronic giving).*

**Postlude**



*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20852.*

First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021

## ***Obedience and Praise***

The act of praising God fairly leaps off the page in today's readings. And hand in hand with that joyful response is the practice of obedience. They can seem to be opposing actions; we tend to think of praise as a spontaneous eruption of joy, while obedience puts us in mind of rules and limits that dampen our fun. In God's world, though, obedience and praise are naturally joined.

The boy Samuel is in the temple because of a vow his mother, Hannah, made to God. It is her obedience that places him in that sacred space. And each year, Eli the priest blesses Hannah and her husband, Elkanah, praying for the formerly barren couple to have children. And they do!

In the gospel reading from Luke, the boy Jesus can also be found in the temple, after a frantic search by his parents. Mary and Joseph do not understand why he would be in the temple, and Jesus does not understand why his parents did not think to look there first: he is, after all, in his Father's house because of obedience to his life's work. After the misunderstanding, though, Jesus "went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart" (Luke 2:51). Mary too is full of praise as she sees her son's obedience to his call and identity from God.

Far from being the fun-spoiler, obedience leads us to praise. When we let our words and actions point toward God, we will find reasons for praise on every side. And Paul's words to the Colossians bring home the startling realization that obedience is our glad foundation: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful" (Colossians 3:15). It turns out our greatest joy comes from following God's guidance.