

~ Turning Hearts to Christ Through Love ~  
**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL**  
801 E. Main • Bishop, TX 78343

PASTOR: Rev. Matthew Ulmer

ORGANIST: Allison Ulmer

**Second Sunday After Christmas**

**January 3, 2021**

**Growing in Wisdom**

“Let our gladness have no end, alleluia!” (LSB 381:1). “Let our gladness banish sadness All throughout creation!” (LSB 371:1). These two songs of the Christmas season remind us that we are in glad times as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. This year, because of the way the days of the week fall immediately after Christmas Day, we are blessed by having not one but two Sundays after Christmas! Through the Holy Gospel today, we hear about our Lord Jesus when He was a young man—one who increased in wisdom and stature. Jesus was glad to be in God’s house when He was in Jerusalem. Our gladness in these special days is heightened by our being here for worship as we grow in wisdom and in stature by God’s endless grace!

THE BELL



CANDLES



WELCOME

**✚ ✚ ✚ CONFESION AND ABSOLUTION ✚ ✚ ✚**

(Order of service: Divine Service—Setting One, page 151 LSB)

OPENING HYMN:

“Joy To The World”

#387 [ Stand for last verse ]



**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

**Let earth receive her King:**

**Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room**

**And heav'n and nature sing,**

**And heav'n and nature sing,**

**And heav'n 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 the sounding joy.**



**No more let sins and sorrows 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 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 of His love.**

INVOCATION:

(P:) In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

(C:) **AMEN.**

EXHORTATION:

If we say we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,  
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

— Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination. —

CONFESION:

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION:

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✚ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

✠ ✠ ✠ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ✠ ✠ ✠

(Order of service: Divine Service—Setting Four, page 203 LSB)

INTROIT

Psalm 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon: John 1:14

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,  
**glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;

**for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

**his understanding is beyond measure.**

But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,

**in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

**Praise your God, O Zion!**

**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.**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,  
**glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

KYRIE: Lord, Have Mercy

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; 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; Christ, have mercy; 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; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

HYMN OF PRAISE:

“Angels From The Realms Of Glory”

#367(Vs.1,2,& 5)



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.



**Refrain:**

**Come and worship, come and worship;**

**Worship Christ, the newborn King.**



Shepherds in the field abiding,

Watching o'er your flocks by night,

God with us is now residing,

Yonder shines His Infant Light. **[Refrain]**



All creation, join in praising

God the Father, Spirit, Son.

Evermore your voices raising

To the eternal Three in One. **[Refrain]**

SALUTATION:

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

**AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**AMEN.**

[ Sit ]

FIRST READING:

1 Kings 3:4–15

The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, “Because you have

asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days." And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

GRADUAL:

To us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
**and the government shall be upon his shoulder.**  
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**  
Sing to the Lord a new song,  
**for he has done marvelous things!**

EPISTLE:

*Ephesians 1:3-14*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

[ Stand ]

ALLELUIA AND VERSE:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
**These things are written that you may believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

*Luke 2:40-52* — And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

APOSTLES' CREED ..... *Hymnal, inside back cover*

[ Sit ]

SERMON HYMN:

*"A Great And Mighty Wonder"* #383 (Vs. 1,2,3,&4)



*A great and mighty wonder,  
A full and holy cure:  
The virgin bears the infant  
With virgin honor pure!*



**Refrain:**  
**Proclaim the Savior's birth:**  
**"To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth!"**



*The Word becomes incarnate  
And yet remains on high,  
And cherubim sing anthems  
To shepherds from the sky. [Refrain]*



*While thus they sing your Monarch,  
Those bright angelic bands,  
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,  
And oceans, clap your hands. [Refrain]*

♪ Since all He comes to ransom,  
By all be He adored,  
The infant born in Beth'lem,  
The Savior and the Lord. **[Refrain]**

SERMON: "Growing In HIS Grace"

HYMN: "Seek Ye First" #712

♪ **Seek ye first the Kingdom of God  
And His righteousness  
And all these things shall be added unto you  
Allelu alleluia**

♪ **Man shall not live by bread alone  
But by every word  
That proceeds from the mouth of God  
Allelu Alleluia**

♪ **Ask and it shall be given unto you  
Seek and ye shall find  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you  
Allelu Alleluia**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: Remember in prayer—

Ryan Addison - Mia Balko - Dick Dudley - Ernie Filla - Beverly Filla-Streib - Chuck Fredrikson - Blake Gibson - Mark Holly - Morris Klare - Russell Klare - Evelyn Loewe - Virginia Loewe - Michael Lyons - Bob Markos - Barbara Rapstein - Cyndee Remmert - Lane Rex - Red Robertson - Christina Cobb Rodriguez - Hailey Russell - John Salinas - Ann Shipley - Shane Small - Dixie Smith - Michael Spieglehaur - Helen Witzsche - Judy Wood - Nancy Kieschnick - Joan Miller - Family & Friends of Dr. Ben Martin - Our Military & their Families - Our Nation - Business Owners - Seasonal Weather

LORD'S PRAYER: (Hymnal, inside back cover)

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**Our Father who art in heaven, . . .** *Matthew 6:9-13*

CLOSING COLLECT: Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

BENEDICAMUS: Let us bless the Lord.  
**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

BENEDICTION: 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.

**AMEN.** [ Sit ]

CLOSING HYMN: "Savior, Again To Thy Dear Name We Raise" #917

♪ **Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise  
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;  
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,  
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.**

♪ **Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;  
With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.  
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
That in this house have called upon Thy name.**

♪ **Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;  
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.  
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;  
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.**

♪ **Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,  
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;  
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.**

SILENT PRAYER

✠ ✠ ✠  
Acknowledgments

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