

## First Sunday of Christmas

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The story of the flight to Egypt has always been interesting for me. It always had the prospect of humbling me when it came to the roll of parenting. The thought of crossing the Egyptian desert with Mary and the newborn Jesus, looking behind himself each step,

must have been an incredible moment of faith for Joseph. What might I do in similar circumstances? It was an amazing journey, to be sure!

This moment of time slips by so quickly in the Christmas cycle since we spend precious little time on the youth of Jesus, and see Him grown as we enter the season of Epiphany into Lent. It happens so quickly, so while we have a moment, we should focus our attention on the figures in the story.

To call Joseph excited about the journey might be well an understatement! Told his fiancée was to have a baby-not his, mind you-then the birth in the stable, now this? That would stretch a first time father in any time frame. Yet that is exactly how God uses His people.

I'm sure Joseph was filled with every emotion known to man. We hear of all the things Mary pondered on her heart, but it's hard to imagine everything Joseph must have felt. Being chased at the point of death with a child who was not "his" just to save face would be a challenge anyone would find daunting.

Yet as I said before God uses these situations, as He uses us, to accomplish His purposes. This New Year is a few hours old, and already you are facing enough challenges that wear at your patience just as it must have worn at Joseph. God works in our broken, weak, timid, even fear-filled emotions to effect His Will in our lives, and the lives we meet all year long!

Happy New Year! Enjoy how God will be using YOU!

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

## **OUR WORSHIP TODAY**

### **GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME**

Pre-Service Music

Welcome and Announcements

### **CONFESSIONAL PRAYER**

As we celebrate this Christmas season, we are reminded of the many gifts we have exchanged with each other, as well as the greatest gift God that you have shared with us, the gift of Jesus our Savior. Even with this great gift, we often forget and even worse neglect our relationship to God, lose respect for His Word, and fail to carry out our responsibilities as we live out our daily lives. For this, we pause to offer our confession this day:

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things 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. 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**

Pastor: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake, and by His promise, forgives us all our sin. Therefore on His behalf, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray in His Holy Name, Amen.

### **HYMN 104    "Away in a Manger"    1,2,3**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): **O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia.**

**FIRST LESSON : Isaiah 63:7-9**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

I will tell of the Lord's unfailing love. I will praise the Lord for all he has done. I will rejoice in his great goodness to Israel, which he has granted according to his mercy and love. He said, "They are my very own people. Surely they will not betray me again." And he became their Savior. In all their suffering he also suffered, and he personally rescued them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them. He lifted them up and carried them through all the years.

**THE SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 2:10-18**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. And it was only right that he should make Jesus, through his suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation.

So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters. For he said to God, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters. I will praise you among your assembled people." He also said, "I will put my trust in him," that is, "I and the children God has given me."

Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, and they stayed there until Herod's death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: "I called my Son out of Egypt."

Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance. Herod's brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

"A cry was heard in Ramah—weeping and great mourning. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted, for they are dead."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. "Get up!" the angel said. "Take the child and his mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead."

So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother. But when he learned that the new ruler of Judea was Herod's son Archelaus, he was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee. So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: "He will be called a Nazarene."

The Gospel of our Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

SERMON

Pastor Tony Alonzo

**SERMON HYMN: 116 "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" 1,2,6**

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed (C)

**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 into hell. 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE OFFERING:

*After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology:*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

-PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

**HYMN 132 "Go Tell it on the Mountain" 1,4**

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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**WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN!** Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! A blessed Christmas season to you all!

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** We remember our community around us, those who travel, those who are in need of a miracle, those who are experiencing medical situations, and all who are lonely. We pray for a great start, to a great year!

**NEXT SUNDAY: INSTALLATION OF THE 2017 OSLC CHURCH COUNCIL**

**LCMC's FIFTH ANNUAL THREE DAYS OF PRAYER** is coming January 3-5, with a focus Day One on Confession, our Petitions on Day Two, and Seeking God's Vision on Day Three. We pray on every day, but these three days provide our Association the chance to join together and offer our prayers. Please take the time to focus your prayer on these days, in each of the three areas.

**THANKS** to Pastor Tony Alonzo for filling in for Pastor Jon this week. Pastor and Cheryl are busy visiting their family in Minnesota and celebrating the New Year together.

**Our Savior Lutheran Church, LCMC**

14344 Jamison Way Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Website: <http://www.oslc-lcmc.com>

Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M.

Bible Study Twice Monthly, Wednesdays at 10:00 AM

**Rev. Jonathon Kosec, Lead Pastor**

Pastor's email: [jonathonkosec@gmail.com](mailto:jonathonkosec@gmail.com)

Cell Phone: (941) 916-7300