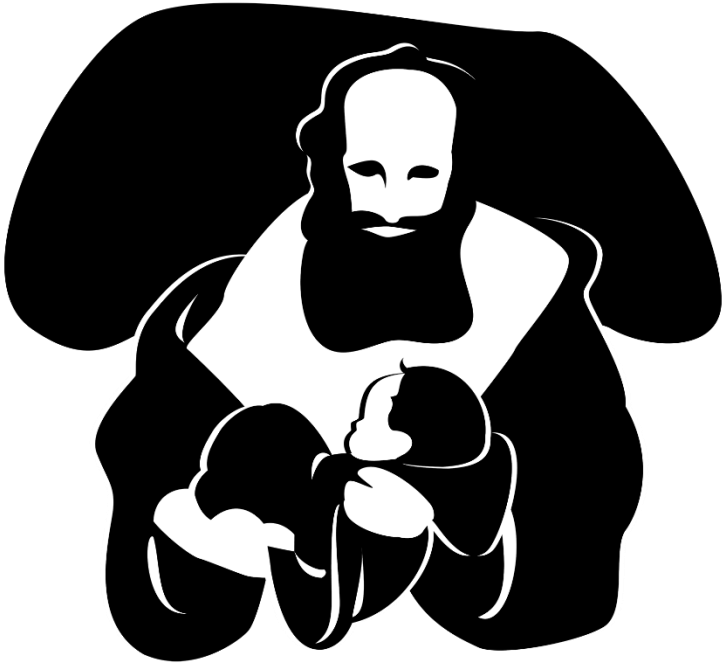


First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 31, 2017



Christ Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)

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The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to help all people know Jesus as their Savior and grow in relationship with Him.

First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 31, 2017

HYMN "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" Tune: *LSB 442*

O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.

I lay in fetters, groaning;
You came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning;
You came to honor me.
A glorious crown You give me,
A treasure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me
As earthly riches fly.

Love caused Your incarnation;
Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race.

Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
Cannot His love erase;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon
And cover by His grace.
He comes, for you procuring
The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing
Eternal life in heav'n.

INVOCATION

Based on Luke 2:29–31

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: According to the Lord's own Word, let us come before Him.

C: Our eyes shall see the salvation He has prepared for us.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:7; Galatians 4:4–5

P: If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

C: and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

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

P: Let us join together and confess our sins to God, our Father:

C: Lord God, heavenly Father, we acknowledge that we have not walked according to Your commands. Our words and actions have not reflected the light of Your presence in our lives. We have stumbled and fallen in the darkness. In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, we ask for Your forgiveness. Cleanse our hearts and minds with His mercy, and scatter the darkness of our sin with the brightness of His righteousness. Amen.

P: Your merciful Father has sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem you who are under the law, so that you might be adopted into His family and freed by His forgiveness. As a called and ordained servant of God's Son, Jesus 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.

C: Amen.

INTROIT

Ps. 98:1– 4; antiphon: Is. 52:10

P: The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

C: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

P: The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

C: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

C: 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.

P: The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord" *LSB 352*

**Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.**

**As Your coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
Which is Yours eternally.**

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SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You have given us the sign of Your presence in the coming of our Savior.

C: Grant that we may recognize this sign and embrace Him in our lives, always reflecting the light of Your glory.

P: Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come.

C: In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:10–62:3

¹⁰ I 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. ¹¹ For 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. ¹ For 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. ² The 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. ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Luke 2:30, 32

P: Alleluia. My eyes have seen Your salvation;

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought Jesus 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") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves,

or two young pigeons.”²⁵ Now 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.²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.²⁷ And 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,²⁸ he 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;³⁰ for my eyes have seen Your salvation³¹ that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.”³³ And His father and His mother marveled at what was said about Him.³⁴ And 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 opposed³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”³⁶ And 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,³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.³⁸ And 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.³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.⁴⁰ And 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.

HYMN “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”..... *LSB 378*

SERMON

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of

Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OFFERING

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

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| <p>If you are a confirmed member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you to commune with us. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation and would like to come forward with your family and friends during the distribution, please place your hands over your heart and you will receive a blessing.</p> |
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PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, recognizing the sign of Your presence in the person of Your Son, we may rest in You and rejoice in Your salvation. By Your Holy Spirit, Simeon embraced the salvation You had prepared for him. Prepare our hearts as well, that we may recognize the sign of Your presence that is before us in the body and blood of Christ.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI "Of the Father's Love Begotten" LSB 384

**Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.**

**Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,**

Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN “The Infant Priest Was Holy Born” **LSB 624**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another, always recognizing the sign of Your presence and sharing Your Son with the world He came to save; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: According to the Lord’s own Word, we have come before Him.

C: Our eyes have seen the salvation He has prepared for us.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

HYMN “Let Us All with Gladsome Voice” **LSB 390**

Acknowledgments

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THIS WEEK AT CLC — (December 31-January 7, 2018)

Sunday: Worship/HC, 9:00am; Education Hour, 10:30am

Wednesday: Bible Class, 8:30am; 1st year Confirmation, 5:00pm; 2nd year Confirmation, 6:00pm

Thursday: Worship/HC, 6:30pm

Sunday: Worship/HC (Installation of Council & LWML), 9:00am; Education Hour, 10:30am

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE for the weeks ending December 24 and 31 will appear in next week's bulletin.

CLC ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUESTS AND VISITORS: We are glad you are here! We invite you to join us for fellowship and Bible class following the service. Bathrooms are located upstairs on each end of the fellowship/Bible study area.

THANK YOU for your donations to Hope Life Center!

DECEMBER FOOD FOR THE BODY donations were taken to the Salvation Army. Your support is greatly appreciated!

GREATER WAUSAU CHRISTIAN SERVICES (GWCS) shares New Life Recovery Bibles with correctional clients in the Marathon County Jail. The organization has depleted its Bible budget for 2017, but the need persists. If you would like to make a donation to GWCS to fund more Bibles, please contact Christ Lutheran's representative on the GWCS board, Brian Otten, or contact the organization.

"LIFE QUOTES" from Lutherans For Life

"Our failures won't undermine the Lord's reign. Others' successes can't overthrow it. This world will go on as long as God wills and will then give way to new creation. In Jesus we are guaranteed inclusion in it, as well as having the privilege of participating in His activity—not to assert superiority but to save our opponents from the devil's deceptions and our neighbors from final destruction. Let's exercise our majesty enthusiastically!" *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life – (www.lutheransforlife.org)*