

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 3, 2021

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession & Absolution

- P** Let us confess our sin to God:
O Lord, great God, all holy, Father most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love,
- C** **We are embarrassed to come before you,
for we have rebelled against your wisdom and have gotten into trouble,
for we have rejected your fatherly guidance and have gotten lost
altogether.
And therefore we are embarrassed.
To you belongs righteousness, O Lord, and to us confusion of face.**
- P** O Lord, great God, all holy, Father, most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love.
- C** **Incline your ear to our troubles.
Hear us when we pour out our sorrows before you.
Forgive us, not on the ground of our own righteousness,
but on the ground of your great mercy -
on the ground of your great mercy in the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ.
It is in his name that we pray,
for He is our Savior and the mediator of the covenant of grace.
Amen.**
- P** Because of Jesus, God has forgiven all our sin. Hear the gospel of Christ from Psalm 103:
"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits – who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagles."
- C** Amen.

Psalm

Psalm 147:1, 5, 11–12

P Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

C **Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.**

P But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

C **Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!**

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.**

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 3:4–15

⁴ 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. ⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ 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, ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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.”

¹⁵ 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

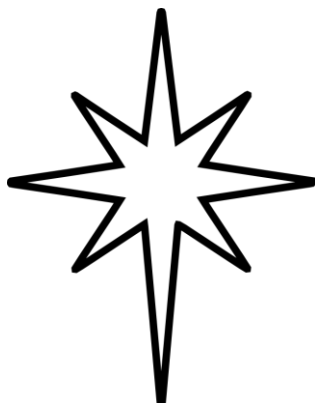
C **Thanks be to God.**

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In 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, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In 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, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.





Speak O Lord, as we come to You, to re-ceive the food of Your
Teach us Lord, full o - be - di - ence, Ho - ly rev - er - ence, true hu -
Speak O Lord, and re - new our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your

Ho - ly Word. Take Your Truth, plant it deep in us; shape and
mil - i - ty. Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the
plans for us. Truths un - changed from the dawn of time, that will

fash - ion us in Your like - ness; That the light of Christ might be
ra - di - ance of Your pur - i - ty. Cause our faith to rise, cause our
ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by grace we'll stand on Your

seen to - day in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
eyes to see Your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.
prom - is - es; And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.

Speak O Lord and ful - fil in us all Your pur - pos - es for Your glo - ry.
Words of pow'r that can nev - er fail; Let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
Speak O Lord, 'til Your church is built, and the earth is filled with Your glo - ry.

Text & tune: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, © 2005 Thankyou Music. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11373734

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:40–52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but 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, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them

questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ 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." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ 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.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayer

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence 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.

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.

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymn #370

What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to

sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let

shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the

Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Distribution Hymn #380

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-teous-ness!



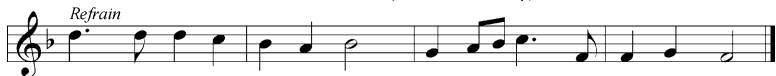
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley; tune: Felix Mendelssohn; text & tune: public domain

Distribution Hymn #392

God Loves Me Dearly



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - ry, Sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did -
5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Text: August Riche; tune: German; text & tune: public domain

Announcements

Bible Study *

Sunday @ 12:30 p.m. (Zoom)

* Please text Pastor Mueller if you have not yet attended and would like a Zoom invitation link sent to your email.

Sunday School

Students in preschool through 8th grade are invited downstairs immediately after Communion for a brief (5-10 minute) period where they can grab a pre-packaged snack, hear a short message and take home materials to work on at home.

Youth Confirmation –Today 11:30am - 12:30pm

New Member Class - Tonight 6:00pm - 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

Men's Bible Study - Beginning Tuesday, January 12, at 6:30am, Aaron will be leading a men's Bible study through the book *Every Man's Battle: Winning the War on Sexual Temptation One Victory at a Time*. The study will meet for eight weeks. If you are interested in attending, please let Aaron know by next Sunday. The cost of the book and workbook is \$10.

Jr. High & Sr. High Youth Group (6th-12th Grade)

Join us Tuesday nights here at the church from 6:30-8:00pm. We have a lot of exciting things happening - come check it out. Adult helpers are always welcome. Any questions, contact the church office.

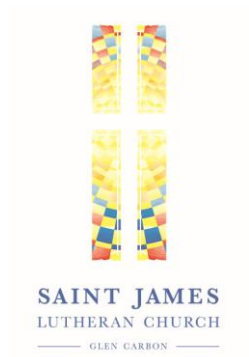
2021 Offering Envelopes – All congregation members – Your 2021 offering envelopes are available on the credenza in the narthex. If you are not currently attending in person, but would like your envelopes, please call Cheryl in the office to arrange curb-side pickup or delivery if needed.

"**Metro-East Lutheran High School** is now accepting applications for the 21/22 school year. Any new students (freshmen or transfer) interested in seeking enrollment at Lutheran High School please go to the school website at www.melhs.org and download the admission and enrollment packet or contact the school office at 618-656-0043. If you have additional questions, please contact Dr. Jay Krause, Principal, or email him at jay.krause@melhs.org. Come be a part of this dynamic ministry in the future."

Mercy Ministries

Mosaic Baby Bottle Campaign – Coming Soon!

Now is a great time to start saving change for the Mosaic Baby Bottle Campaign (change drive). Mosaic transforms lives by providing free, life-affirming pregnancy & sexual health services, education & Christ-centered support. Watch for bottles to be distributed mid-January.



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