

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
January 2 & 3, 2021 – 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace
Pastor Scott Hackler – Pastor Gary Benson

OUR VISION

“To help our congregation and community know Christ and grow in faith, so we can run the race of life with grace, hope, peace, and joy.”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Now Is Born the Divine Christ Child” Fred Bornhoeft

INVOCATION

P: We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: “Christ, Be Our Light”

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. / Longing for truth, we turn to You. / Make us Your own, Your holy people, / Light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! / Shine in our hearts. / Shine through the darkness. / Christ, be our light! / Shine in Your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. / Longing for hope, many despair. / Your word alone has pow'r to save us. / Make us your living voice. ***Refrain***

Many the gifts, many the people, / Many the hearts that yearn to belong. / Let us be servants to one another, / Signs of Your kingdom come. ***Refrain***

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Merciful God,

C: we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.

P: Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “This Is the Day”

This is the day, this is the day / that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice, we will rejoice / and be glad in it, and be glad in it. / This is the day that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice and be glad in it. / This is the day, this the day that the Lord has made.

Text: Psalm 118:24. Public Domain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Mary, Did You Know”..... Rick Bredlie

THE READING: Ephesians 1:3-14 Frank Fara

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, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: “What Feast of Love”

What feast of love is offered here, / what banquet come from heaven? / What food of everlasting life, / what gracious gift is given? / This, this is Christ the king, / the bread come down from heaven. / Oh, taste and see and sing! / How sweet the manna given!

What light of truth is offered here, / what covenant from heaven? / What hope of everlasting life, / what wondrous word is given? / This, this is Christ the king, / the sun come down from heaven. / Oh, see and hear and sing! / The Word of God is given!

What wine of love is offered here, / what holy drink from heaven? / What stream of everlasting life, / what precious blood is given? / This, this is Christ the king, / the sweetest wine of heaven. / Oh, taste and see and sing! / The Son of God is given!

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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 catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD’S SUPPER: WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he come to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying; Take and eat: this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

LORD’S PRAYER

P: Lord Jesus, you teach us to pray:

C: 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.

DISTRIBUTION

BLESSING AND PRAYER

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Let us pray,

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

SENDING HYMN: “God, Whose Almighty Word”

God, whose almighty word / chaos and darkness heard / and took their flight: / hear us, we humbly pray, / and where the gospel day / sheds not its glorious ray, / let there be light.

Christ, who once came to bring, / on your redeeming wing, / healing and sight, / health to the troubled mind, / sight where illusions blind; / oh, now to humankind / let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love, / life-giving, holy dove, / speed forth your flight; / move on the water's face / bearing the lamp of grace, / and in earth's darkest place / let there be light.

Holy and blessed three, / glorious Trinity, / Wisdom, Love, Might: / boundless as ocean's tide, / rolling in fullest pride, / through the earth, far and wide, / let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt. Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

C: Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Hymn vocalists: Ken Carnes, Beth McDonnell, Terry Pierce, Cathy Pierce

Audio & Lighting: Jim Miller

Producer & Editor: Jerry Huston

RUNNING THE RACE

“Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13-14