

PINNACLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 26, 2021

First Sunday of Christmas

Prepared for Heaven!

Are you prepared for heaven? Admittedly, this is an odd question when we are celebrating Jesus' birth. Yet, Jesus was born to die to save His people from their sins. As Simeon held the Christ Child, he couldn't help but say, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word," while also telling Mary, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed." That opposition eventually brought about His death on a cross. Yet, Jesus was born to die and rise to life again so that all who believe in Him might live! That is the best Christmas gift ever.

OPENING HYMN: #379 – [O Come, All Ye Faithful](#)

INVOCATION

- In the name of the Father and of the □ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- || **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 25:6–7*

- 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.**

A time of silence is observed.

- 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.

- 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 +

PSALM *Psalm 111 (spoken responsively by verse)*

¹Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.**

³Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴**He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

⁵He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

⁶**He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

⁸**they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

⁹He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;**



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.
 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:
 You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
 You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.
 For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,
 You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- The Lord be with you.



- And al - so with you.

- Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



- A - men.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15*

(The Israelites are to consecrate their firstborn to the Lord.)

¹The LORD said to Moses, ²“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

³Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. . . .

¹¹“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’s. ¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

... This is the Word of the Lord.

II Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a (spoken together)*

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 *Colossians 3:12–17*

(Wrap yourselves with the characteristics, peace, and word of Christ.)

¹²Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with

one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

... This is the Word of the Lord.

II **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA and VERSE *Psalm 24:7*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:22–40*

(Jesus is brought to the temple.)

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

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] 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”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now 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. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he

would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And 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, ²⁸he 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;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And 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 opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶And 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, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And 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.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

□ The Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: #380 – [Hark! The Herald Angels Sing](#)

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

II 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

☐ ... O God of our salvation,
☩ **hear our prayer**

At conclusion:

☐ ... through Jesus Christ, our newborn King.
☩ **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.**

CLOSING COLLECT

- Let us pray.
Lord Jesus, our Savior, we praise and thank You for coming to be born of Mary so that through faith in You we might depart this life in peace. Grant that we may ever share this gift; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

|| Amen.

BENEDICTION *Philippians 4:5-7; Numbers 6:24-26*

- 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.



CLOSING HYMN: #367 – [*Angels from the Realms of Glory*](#)

DISMISSAL

- Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
|| Thanks be to God.