

First Sunday of Christmas/New Year's Day

January 1, 2017 + 10:00 a.m.

First Lutheran Church + St. Peter, Minnesota

Pastor Alan Bray Intern Caitlin Jensen Cantor Emily Bruflat

Renewed by Christ in Word, water, bread & wine we serve the community and the world.

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

Gathering

Gathering Music

"Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her (From Heaven Above)

J. Pachelbel

Welcome

+Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh,
the Power of the Most High, † one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered in the name of Jesus,
let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,

**in Christ Jesus you come among us
as light shining in darkness.**

We confess our failure to welcome this light.

Forgive us and renew our hope,

so that we may live in the light of your grace,

and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people:

To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in † Jesus' name.

Amen.

+Gathering Hymn "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

ELW 275

+Greeting

+Kyrie

Page 120

+Canticle of Praise "Let Our Gladness Have No End"

ELW 291

+Prayer of the Day

Word

Isaiah 63:7-9

First Reading

God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation.

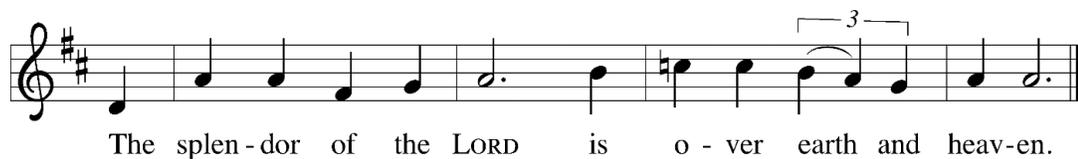
L: A reading from Isaiah.

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior ⁹in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148 (sung responsively between Leader and Congregation)

Refrain: (sung first time by Leader and by ALL thereafter):



Tone:



Halle-lu-jah! Praise the LORD ¹ from the heavens;
praise God ¹ in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, ¹ all you angels;
sing praise, all you ¹ hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, ¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ¹ shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heav- ¹ en of heavens,
and you waters a- ¹ bove the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name ¹ of the LORD,
who commanded, and they ¹ were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast fore- ¹ er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not ¹ pass away. R**

⁷Praise the LORD ¹ from the earth,
you sea monsters ¹ and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, ¹ snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- ¹ ing God's will;**

⁹mountains ¹ and all hills,
fruit trees ¹ and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts ¹ and all cattle,
creeping things and ¹ flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth ¹ and all peoples,
princes and all rulers ¹ of the world;

¹²young | men and maidens,
old and | young together. R

¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful
servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah! R

Second Reading

Hebrews 2:10-18

L: A reading from Hebrews.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." ¹³And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

+Gospel Acclamation (*sung by ALL*)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

+Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:13-23

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all

the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.” ¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

L: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Intern Caitlin Jensen

+Hymn of the Day *“What Child Is This?”*

ELW 296

+Apostles’ Creed

Page 127

+Prayers of Intercession

+Sharing of the Peace

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

C: And also with you.

Meal

Offering *“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”*

Mark Hayes

+Offertory Prayer

+Words of Institution

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+Lord’s Prayer

Page 134

Communion Distribution Hymns

“Lamb of God”

Page 135

“Love Has Come”

ELW 292

“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”

ELW 286

+Post-Communion Prayer

Sending

+Sending Hymn *“From Heaven Above”* stanzas 1-3, 12-14

ELW 268

+Prayer, Announcements, Blessing, Dismissal

A: We join in proclaiming:

C: Renewed by Christ in Word, water, bread and wine, we go in peace to serve our community and the world. Thanks be to God!

+Sending Music *“Vom Himmel hoch, da komm’ ich her”*

J. Pachelbel

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