



January 2, 2022

Second Sunday of Christmas

*An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit,
and you are invited to read responses found in **bold**.
You are welcome to sing during worship if you are vaccinated!
Welcome to First Lutheran Church!*

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — “Coventry Carol”
“Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light”

Traditional English Carol
Johann Sebastian Bach
Arnold Krueger, violin; John Bipes, cello

Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** — no. 296

“What Child Is This”

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who sends the word with angels,
who is made flesh among all peoples,
and who breathes peace on all the earth.
Amen.

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out
for peace.

Holy God,
we confess our sin before you.
We replace compassion with competition.
We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.

We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.
We have not put on love in harmony with you.
Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.
Swaddle our hearts with your peace,
that all we do, in word or deed,
may reflect your love born among us.
Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:
God has come among us
in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.
† In Christ your sins are forgiven
and you are clothed in peace. **Amen.**

***Canticle of Praise** — hymn no. 287

“Let All Together Praise Our God”

***Prayer of the Day**

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

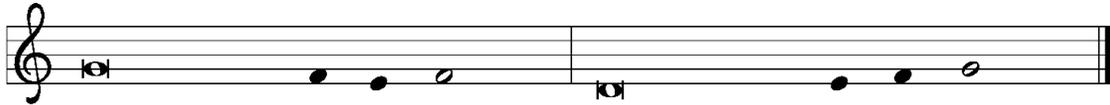
A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Jeremiah 31:7-14

7 Thus says the Lord:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”
8 See, I am going to bring them from the land of
the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of
the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.
9 With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not
stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.
10 Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;

say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”
11 For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for
him.
12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of
Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the
Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for
sorrow.
14 I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147:12-20 — sung responsively by verse



12 Worship the Lord, | O Jerusalem;
praise your | God, O Zion,
13 **who has strengthened the bars | of your gates
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**
14 God has established peace | on your borders
and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.
15 **God sends out a command | to the earth,
a word that runs | very swiftly.**
16 God gives | snow like wool,
scattering | frost like ashes.
17 **God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand a- | gainst God’s cold?**

18 The Lord sends forth the | word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the | waters flow.
19 **God declares the | word to Jacob,
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.**
20 The Lord has not done so to any | other nation;
they do not know God’s judgments. |
Hallelujah!

A Reading from the Epistles — Ephesians 1:3-14

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, 4just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11In 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, 12so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13In 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; 14this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** — hymn no. 290, refrain

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

***Gospel** — John 1:10-18

The Gospel of John, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14And 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. 15(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.’”) 16From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “Go Tell It in St. Peter!”

Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn** — no. 295

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

***Affirmation of Faith — Apostles' Creed**

**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 power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
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**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

You make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms. Draw our attention to those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You journey with us through change. Guide those assuming new roles in this congregation or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities. We give special thanks today that Pastor Chris Culuris begins his call here at First Lutheran Church. Bless his ministry with us as we extend hospitality to him and his family as they settle in Saint Peter. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Offering

Music at the Offering

“The First Noel”

English Carol

Arnold Krueger, violin; John Bipes, cello

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

*Sending Hymn — no. 292

“Love Has Come”

*Blessing

The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior. **Thanks be to God!**

*Postlude — “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Felix Mendelssohn
Arnold Krueger, violin; John Bipes, cello

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat
Greeter/Reader: Sharon Malm

Ushers: Dave Pehrson
Musicians: Arnold Krueger, John Bipes

Announcements

- We welcome Pastor Chris to First Lutheran Church! Be sure to come next week, January 9 at 9:00 for a meet and greet before the service. Pastor Chris will be installed by Pastor Stephen Cook from the SWMN Synod during worship on January 23, 2022.
- Mark your calendar now for January 30, 2022 for our annual meeting, which will take place after worship!

Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Tom and Deb Johnson, Tom Michels, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Glen Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Tim Sebring, Mary Pieklo, Gloria Kane, Gwen Powell, Nancy Maag, and Urusla McRostie.
- We pray for all those families continuing to adjust to the loss of loved ones, including the families of Pastor Heidi Hagstrom, Beverly Wetherill, Tom Stenson, Mary Lee Denley, Marion Peterson, and Bob Isenberg.