

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

No Longer a Slave

December 27, 2020



AS WE GATHER

The Epistle for the First Sunday after Christmas brings a one-sentence summary of the Christmas message as Paul writes it to the Christians of Galatia. “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son” (Galatians 4:4). God knew the exact right time for His beloved Son to come to earth, this sin-filled world. God had a plan for salvation that was carried out faithfully and completely by Jesus. In the days after Christmas, we have the opportunity to reflect on the importance of the Christmas message. We have received the greatest of all gifts. Through Jesus Christ, we are heirs of God and have an eternal inheritance!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN 386 “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Luke 2:30, 32; Psalm 71:19, 23*

Pastor: Alleluia! My eyes have seen Your salvation,

People: **a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. Alleluia!**

Pastor: Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.

People: **You who have done great things, O God, who is like You?**

Pastor: My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to You;

People: **my soul also, which You have redeemed.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: People redeemed by the Lord, let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

People: Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of having sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not lived our lives fully in the freedom won for us by our Lord. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus, our Savior. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.

Pastor: God has promised pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son, who has replaced slavery to sin with a priceless inheritance of freedom and joy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

People: Amen.

☩ **WORD** ☩

HYMN LSB 389 “Let All Together Praise Our God”

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Gracious God, through our Lord Jesus Christ You have taken the slavery under which we were held captive to sin and Satan and have given us new life. By the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us, keep us ever connected to Christ to live out each day in our baptismal grace as we await the joy of life in Your eternal presence. This we ask for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.

People: Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC “A Nativity Carol”

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 61:10–62:3*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Galatians 4:4–7*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:22–40* (Jesus is presented in the temple by Mary and Joseph.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY LSB 376 “Once in Royal David’s City”

SERMON

HYMN LSB 358 vs 1-3, 15 “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

CREED *Apostles’ Creed*

**People: 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

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.**

OFFERTORY “What Can I Give?”

What can I give to my King?
What can I offer oh what can I bring?
My Lord and my God's given me everything.
What can I give to my king?

What Can I give to my Lord?
It is He that I worship oh Him I adore.
He came to save both the lame and the poor,
What can I give to my Lord?

He gave His life on the cross.
He died for me and for you.
He wants us now to be willing to serve.
That's what He calls us to do, to do.

I give it all to my King!
My life I can offer my life I can bring
To the One who has given to me everything.
I give it all to my King, I give it all to my King!

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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. *Numbers*
6:24–26

People: **Amen.**

HYMN LSB 388 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

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