



GOD FULFILLS HIS PROMISES

The Second Sunday after Christmas

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Kearney, Nebraska*

Sunday, January 3, 2016

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

We are so happy you could join us today! If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

For your convenience, **Listening Devices** are available for those who need assistance in hearing the service. Please speak with an usher if you need one. A **Nursery** is also available and is equipped with a speaker so that a minimal amount of the service is missed. The nursery is located in the hallway just off the entryway (first door on left).

SERVICE NOTES FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Zechariah had learned to trust God’s promises. After months of silence, he bursts forth to sing of God’s promises kept (note the aorists!) Blessed be the God of Israel who has come to redeem his people. The struggle with sin of spiritual Israel was over. Salvation has come just as the LORD, the God of free and faithful grace, had sworn by his own name. With the joy of salvation and the confidence of promises fulfilled, we fearlessly serve the LORD in righteousness.



CHILDREN’S DEVOTION TODAY

During today’s service, a children’s devotion will be offered. The devotion will take place during the singing of the Hymn of the Day. Children ages 3-12 are invited to come forward during the singing of that hymn.

SERVING IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

Preacher & Presiding Minister.....Pr. Nathanael P. Seelow
Organist.....Michelle Reinsch
Ushers.....Phil Brei & Jim Cantrell
Greeters.....Oscar & Arleta Bauch
Sound TechnicianLogan Hansen

ABOUT THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

For the four weeks of Advent the Church awaited the arrival of the Christ-child. We lit candles as reminders to have Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love. And on Christmas, we welcomed Christ into our world and our hearts. But for the Church, that isn't the end of the Christmas celebration. The days between Christmas and Epiphany—twelve, to be exact—are jam-packed with Minor Festivals and Commemorations.

- On December 26, the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Stephen (as we hear in the Christmas carol, *Good King Wenceslaus*);
- On December 27, the Church celebrates the Feast of St. John, the Evangelist (fittingly so, as the first chapter of his Gospel was appointed for the Festival of the Nativity of our Lord);
- On December 28, the Church celebrates the Commemoration of the Holy Innocents, recognizing the martyrdom of the innocent children at the hands of the ruthless King Herod;
- On January 1, while the world celebrates the New Year, the Church celebrates the circumcision and naming of Jesus at the temple, fulfilling Old Testament law, even as an 8-day-old baby;
- And on January 6, the Church celebrates the Festival of Epiphany, the revealing of Jesus as the Son of God on earth and that he is the light of the world.

We celebrate these days with joy and gladness as we see Christ come into the world for all sinners. Rejoice, for the Light of the World has come!

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THE SERVICE OF MATINS

"Morning Praise" is based on the historic service called "Matins." Joined to Christ, our risen Lord, we glorify God as we rise to the activities of this new day.

MORNING HYMN

I Sing as I Arise Today | CWS 779

Tune: ROCKINGHAM OLD

Please stand.



1 I sing as I a - rise to - day, I
2 The word of God to be my speech, The
3 The work of God to be my joy, The
4 I sing as I a - rise to - day; I



call on my Cre - a - tor's might: The
hand of God to be my stay, The
house of God to be my rest, The
cry out my Re - deem - er's name: Lord



will of God to be my guide, The
shield of God to be my strength, The
grace of God to be my song, The
Je - sus Christ, my hope, my all, To -



eye of God to be my sight,
path of God to be my way,
praise of God to be my best.
day and ev - er - more the same.



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



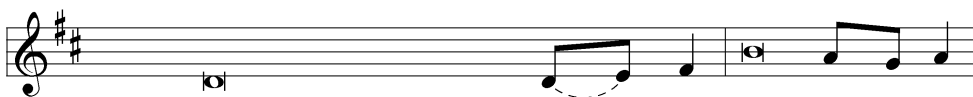
C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



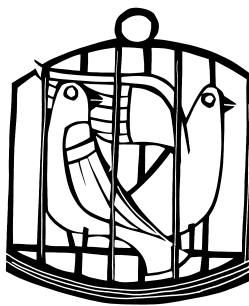
M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



M: Unto us the _____ Christ is born: let us wor - ship him.



In our Gospel this morning, Zechariah the priest proclaims the greatness of God in song (in fact, we sing a version of it on the next page). Eight days after he was born, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and to officially name him. When they came, they would have brought a sacrifice with them, according to the Law of the Lord. That sacrifice most likely would have been two doves. Even at eight days old, the Law was being fulfilled by Jesus — perfectly! — on our behalf!



1 Blest be the God of Is - ra - el, Who comes
2 He from the house of Da - vid A child
3 On pris - on - ers of dark - ness The sun

to set us free; He vis - its and re - deems us; He
of grace has giv'n; A Sav - ior comes a - mong us To
be - gins to rise, The dawn - ing of for - give - ness Up -

grants us lib - er - ty. The proph - ets spoke of
raise us up to heav'n. Be - fore him goes his
on the sin - ner's eyes. He guides the feet of

mer - cy, Of free - dom and re - lease; God shall
her - ald, Fore - run - ner in the way, The proph -
pil - grims A - long the paths of peace. Oh, bless

ful - fill his prom - ise And bring his peo - ple peace.
et of sal - va - tion, The har - bin - ger of day.
our God and Sav - ior With songs that nev - er cease!

*Be seated.***FIRST LESSON***Genesis 17:1-7**God establishes his covenant promise
of a Savior with Abraham.*

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." ³ Then Abram fell on

his face. And God said to him, ⁴ “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

PSALM

Psalm 148 | CWS p. 61



Refrain

Praise the LORD from the heavens,
praise him in the heights above.

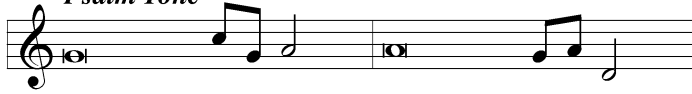
Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars.

Refrain

Praise the LORD from the earth,
lightning and hail, stormy winds that do his bidding,

Psalm Tone



you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,
wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,
kings of the earth and all rulers on earth,
young men and maidens, old men and children.

Refrain

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Galatians 4:4-7

*When the time had fully come,
God sent his son.*

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- M** The Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**



GOSPEL

Luke 1:68-75
The Song of Zechariah

Please stand.

[M] The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter one:

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

[M] The Gospel of the Lord.

[C] Praise be to you, O Christ!

[M] We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice | **CW 34**

During the singing of the second stanza of the hymn, children ages 3-12 in the congregation are invited to come to the bottom of the chancel steps for a devotion.

SERMON

Luke 1:68-75

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people

⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
 in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies
 and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers
 and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
 might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

Don't Worry...God has Remembered You

TO YOU, O LORD — *Te Deum*

Please stand.



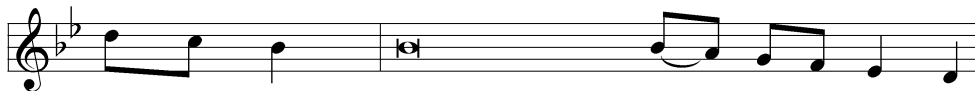
C: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,



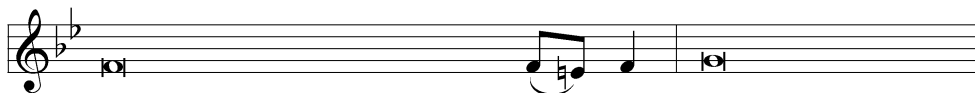
Fa-ther ev - er-last - ing. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,



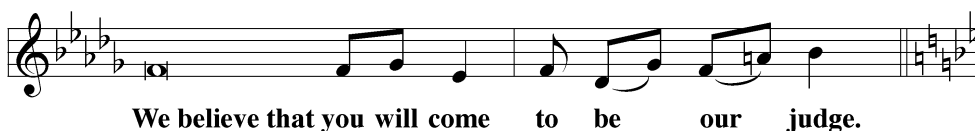
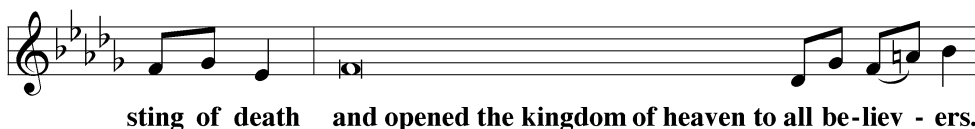
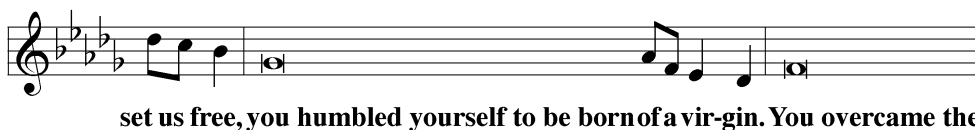
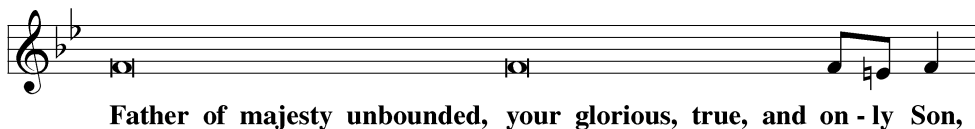
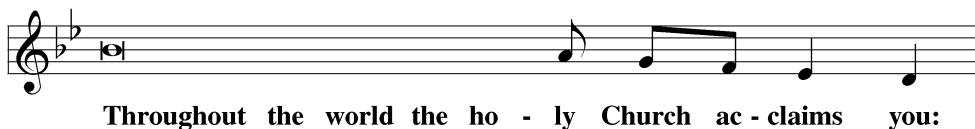
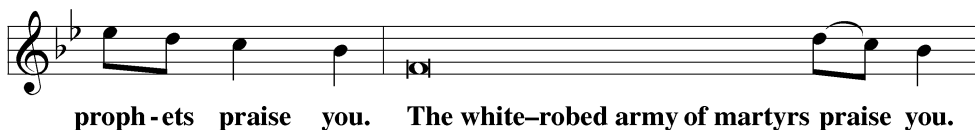
cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of



heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of





Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple, bought with the price of



your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

Be seated.

OFFERING

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to give an offering.

LORD, HAVE MERCY — Kyrie

Please stand.



M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.



C: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.
 Lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
 are yours now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR GRACE

M Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

BLESSING



M: Let us praise the Lord.



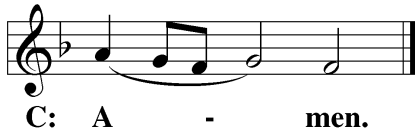
C: Thanks be to God.



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly | **CW 45**



This Week's Announcements

BIBLE CLASS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY! Sunday School will meet at 10:45 in the church. Bible Class will start at 10:55 in the multi-purpose room. We will be continuing our study of Romans 1-8.

FESTIVAL OF EPIPHANY SERVICE This coming Wednesday evening, January 6, a Divine Service with the Lord's Supper will be held to celebrate the festival of Epiphany. This historic festival is a crucial day in the Christian Church year. Please make every effort to come and celebrate the "Gentile's Christmas." There will be **NO WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS** this week. Classes will resume next Wednesday, January 13.

POINSETTIAS MAY BE TAKEN HOME If you ordered a poinsettia, you may take one (or two) home with you today. If you do not wish to take your flower home with you, we will use it through January 6 (Lord-willing) and then they will be thrown away.

WINTER OPEN FORUM AND VOTERS’ MEETING The annual winter open forum and voters’ meeting has been **scheduled for next Sunday, January 10**. The meeting will take the place of Bible Class that morning. Sunday School will continue to be held as scheduled. Please mark this date on your calendars and make plans to attend this important meeting of the church.

CHURCH “UN-DECORATING” The church will be “un-decorated” following the Voters’ Meeting **next Sunday, January 10**. As we did last year, we will order food for lunch and then begin the process of putting the decorations away for the year. Please consider staying for the meetings and then enjoying some time of fellowship as we bring our church building back to “normal.”

CONGREGATION AT PRAYER A copy of the newest “A Congregation at Prayer” is available on the table in the entryway. This packet is not only a good outline for personal and family devotions, but it also includes an up-to-date prayer list for those in (and outside) our congregation.

This Week’s Calendar

- Tuesday, January 5**6:30p — Church Council
- Wednesday, January 6**AM — Hospital/Shut-in Calls
4p — Confirmation
7p — **Festival of Epiphany Service w/ Holy Communion**
- Sunday, January 10**9:30a — Divine Service w/ Holy Communion
Ushers: Randy Kahle & Chaden Darby
Greeters: Phil & Lois Brei and Family
Sound Technician: Logan Hansen
- 10:30a — Fellowship
10:45a — Sunday School
10:55a — *Romans 1-8* Bible Class

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Cleaning (1/3-1/9)*Church*—Harp; *Fellowship*—Kahle; *Ed. Bldg.*—Powers
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