



**THE SEED OF DAVID
COMES TO HIS TEMPLE**

The First Sunday of Christmas

please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are not under church discipline in another congregation, and are members of our congregation, one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS], or a member of our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS].

SERVING IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

Preacher & Presiding MinisterPr. Nathanael Seelow
AccompanistMichelle Reinsch
UshersRandy Webb & Tony Wenz
GreetersRandy & Vicki Webb

ABSOLUTION

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY — *Kyrie*

Matthew 20:30; Mark 10:47; Psalm 6:2

M For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



C: A - men.

Kyrie eleison [kir-ē-a ə-lā-ə-sān] is a Greek phrase meaning "Lord, have mercy." We have already received the mercy of God for forgiveness in Holy Absolution. Now we ask his mercy for all other things we need for a God-pleasing spiritual life.



Be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-5

A SHOOT WILL SPRING UP from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. ³ He will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, nor will he render decisions based on what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the poor, and he will render fair decisions in favor of the humble of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; and with the breath of his lips he will kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness will be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

*A Rod has come forth
from the stem of Jesse
—the Seed of David
whose kingdom shall
be established forever
(2 Sam. 7:1–16).*

WHAT I AM SAYING IS THIS: As long as the heir is a young child, he is no different from a slave. Although he is owner of everything, ² he is still under guardians and managers until the day set by his father. ³ So also, when we were younger children, we were enslaved under the basic principles of the world. ⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, ⁵ in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, "Abba, Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

*In the fullness of time,
God sent forth His
Son Jesus to redeem
us from the judgment
of the Law.*

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 93:1

Please stand.

- M** Alleluia! Alleluia. The LORD reigns. He is clothed in majesty. The LORD is clothed—he wears strength like a belt. Alleluia!



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



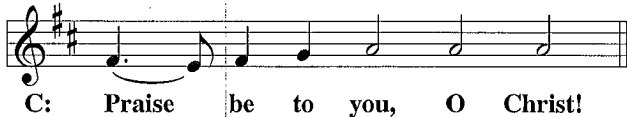
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

speaking about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had accomplished everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town, Nazareth.

⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

[M] This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Light of Gentile Nations | CW 78

SERMON

Luke 2:29-32

Our Eyes Have Seen Him, Too!

NICENE CREED

Please stand.

[C] We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation,

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,

Dt. 6:4

2 Cor. 6:18

Is. 51:13

Col.1:16

1 Cor. 8:6

Jn. 3:18

Heb. 1:2,5

Jn. 1

Jn. 10:30

Jn. 1:3

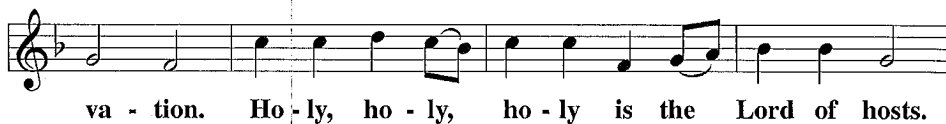
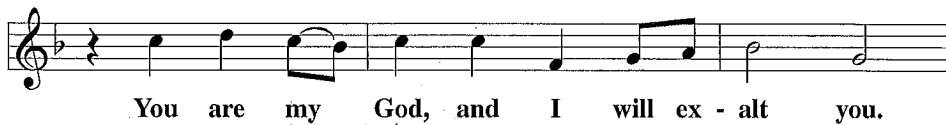
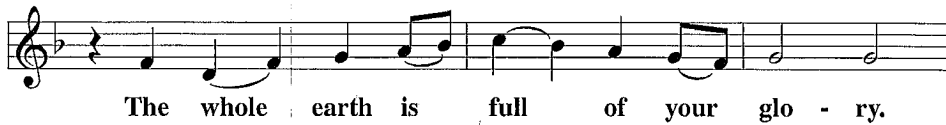
1 Th. 5:9

Jn. 6:38

Lk. 1:35

*Public confession is
faith's response to
God's saving Word.
Christians composed
the Nicene Creed in
the 4th century to
defend the Bible's
teachings that both
Jesus Christ and the
Holy Spirit are true
God, equal to the
Father in one eternal,
undivided Trinity.*

- M** For all pastors, that they would be filled with wisdom and have the favor of God upon them as they serve in Christ's stead and by His command; and for an increase in the pastoral vocation, that Christ and Him crucified would be proclaimed everywhere, let us pray to the Lord: **C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- M** For our congregation, that we may boldly shine the light of Christ into the dark lives of those we know who do not know Him as Savior, let us pray to the Lord: **C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- M** For the weakest among us, especially the unborn, that their lives would be cherished and protected; and for those who have been traumatized in the aftermath of abortion, that they would find forgiveness, healing and restoration in our loving Savior, let us pray to the Lord: **C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- M** For our nation, that our leaders may serve faithfully and wisely, making God-pleasing decisions and walking in integrity, let us pray to the Lord: **C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- M** For those who suffer from loneliness, that they would be comforted by the sure and certain knowledge that they will never be forsaken by God, and that they would find family and friends within the household of faith with whom they can find loving companionship, let us pray to the Lord: **C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- M** For those who are sick and those who suffer, *[especially those for whom our prayers are desired...]*, that they might be surrounded by God's love in Christ and healed according to His gracious will; and for all those who mourn, that the comfort of the resurrection might fill their hearts, let us pray to the Lord: **C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- M** For all our brothers and sisters who have departed this veil of tears in the peace of faith, let us give thanks and praise to the Lord, that we would be brought with them to see with our own eyes Him who is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel, let us pray to the Lord: **C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- M** All glory, honor and praise be to the Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Holy, holy, holy is He whose name is majestic in all the earth, through whom we receive forgiveness, life and salvation. For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. **C** **Amen.**



Sanctus means "holy." Used possibly as early as the 2nd century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians in worship by the 14th century.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M Gracious Father, in the beginning you created all things by your Word; and in the fullness of time your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Let your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating his body and drinking his blood, we may receive the fullness of your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion today may wish to read **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**, found on page 156 in the front section of the hymnal. This page helps us put into practice what the Bible encourages: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." (1 Corinthians 11:28)

Prayer suggestions for before and after receiving the Lord's Supper can be found in the hymnal on pages 10-11 and 134-139.

With the words of John the Baptist, the Agnus Dei (Latin for "Lamb of God") confesses the mercy and peace that we receive from the Lamb of God in His Supper. We come to the Lord's Table hungry and thirsty, and He feeds us with His body and refreshes us with His blood. It is the Lord's Supper. As Luther reminds us, "Our Lord is at one and the same time chef, cook, butler, host, and food."

Good Shepherd confesses and practices the Biblical teaching of a Closed Communion. We ask that only members of the Wisconsin Synod [WELS] or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us at the Lord's Table. If you have questions concerning our communion practice, or would like to inquire about how you, too, can commune with us, please speak with the Pastor following the service.

BLESSING

Numbers 6:22-27

M The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look on you with favor and ✚ give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated.

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them."

CLOSING HYMN

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice | CW 64



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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