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SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Prepared for Heaven!

January 2, 2022



AS WE GATHER

Are you prepared for heaven? Admittedly, this is an odd question when we are celebrating Jesus' birth. Yet, Jesus was born to die to save His people from their sins. As Simeon held the Christ Child, he couldn't help but say, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word," while also telling Mary, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed." That opposition eventually brought about His death on a cross. Yet, Jesus was born to die and rise to life again so that all who believe in Him might live! That is the best Christmas gift ever.

✕ PREPARATION ✕

HYMN "Joy to the World" #387

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

✘ WORD ✘

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.*

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are sinful and unclean. We have taken for granted the free gift of salvation You give us through Jesus. Help us to focus on the reason for the season, the birth of Your Son. Forgive us, O God, and let us depart in peace, according to Your Word, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus, who came to save us from our sins.

Pastor: Receive the free gift that Jesus offers: the forgiveness of sins. As a called and ordained servant of our newborn King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✘ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Thank You, Jesus! Amen.

INTROIT *LSB 387; Psalm 98:1–4; Isaiah 52:10*

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

People: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

Pastor: The LORD has made known His salvation;

People: He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Pastor: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

People: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Pastor: The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
People: **and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!
People: **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

HYMN OF PRAISE “O Come, All Ye Faithful” #379 vs 1,2,3

**O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him born the king of angels:**

Refrain: **O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain***

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15*

(The Israelites are to consecrate their firstborn to the Lord.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Colossians 3:12–17*

(Wrap yourselves with the characteristics, peace, and word of Christ.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Luke 2:30–32*

Pastor: Alleluia. My eyes have seen Your salvation;

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

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:22–40*

(Jesus is brought to the temple.)

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY "Angels We have Heard on High" #368

SERMON "Heaven" **Pastor Pete**

CREED

Nicene Creed

People:

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

OFFERING & PRAYER

(Members and Visitors: We would appreciate it if you would please take this time to fill out and pass the “Who’s In The Pew” folders, located at the center aisle end of each pew.)

Pastor: Gracious God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, symbols of your gracious love.

People: **Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our brother and Lord.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH - Response

Pastor: O God of our salvation,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our newborn King.

People: **Amen.**

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.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for our Prince of Peace who prepares us for heaven through His perfect life, death, and resurrection. We praise and thank You for the revelation You gave Simeon as he held the Christ Child in his arms and for Anna, who shared the news of His birth that has reached our ears as well. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

PAX DOMINI

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

People: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" #388

"What Child Is This" #370

"What Is This Bread" #629

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING *Psalm 106:1b*

Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.

People: **His steadfast love endures forever.**

BENEDICTION *Luke 2:29–32*

Pastor: Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" #922 vs 1,3,4

Worship Leaders: Pastor Dave and Pastor Pete
Music Leader: Daniel M. Meyers
Organist: Sharilyn Rotta

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Holy Communion is shared on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of each month.