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## **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

Growing in Wisdom

January 3, 2021



### **AS WE GATHER**

“Let our gladness have no end, alleluia!” (*LSB* 381:1). “Let our gladness banish sadness All throughout creation!” (*LSB* 371:1). These two songs of the Christmas season remind us that we are in glad times as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. This year, because of the way the days of the week fall immediately after Christmas Day, we are blessed by having not one but two Sundays after Christmas! Through the Holy Gospel today, we hear about our Lord Jesus when He was a young man—one who increased in wisdom and stature. Jesus was glad to be in God’s house when He was in Jerusalem. Our gladness in these special days is heightened by our being here for worship as we grow in wisdom and in stature by God’s endless grace!

### **✠ PREPARATION ✠**

#### **OPENING HYMN**

“Joy to the World”

#387

#### **INVOCATION**

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: Amen.

**OPENING SENTENCES**    *Hebrews 8:10–12; Psalm 122:1*

Leader:        “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord:

**People:        I will put My laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**

Leader:        And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.

**People:        For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”**

Leader:        I was glad when they said to me,

**People:        “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**        “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”        #380

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious and heavenly Father.

**People: Eternal God, we confess that by nature we are sinful people. We have transgressed Your Law in many ways, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not always been wise in our thinking and our speaking and our actions. Our motives and thoughts have not always been pure. We deserve Your punishment now and for eternity. O God, in Your mercy forgive our sin and restore us to a full and joyful relationship with You, through the merits of Jesus, our Lord. Direct all that we do by Your Holy Spirit that in the year now beginning we joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your Commandments as Your redeemed people.**

Leader: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## SALUTATION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**    *1 Kings 3:4–15*  
(Solomon prays to God for the gift of wisdom.)

Leader:        This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**        **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE**        *Ephesians 1:3–14* (We are gifted with God’s spiritual blessings.)

Leader:        This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**        **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL**        *Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

**People:**        **To us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
                          and the government shall be upon His shoulder.  
                          And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty  
                          God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
                          Sing to the Lord a new song,  
                          for He has done marvelous things!**

**HOLY GOSPEL**    *Luke 2:40–52*  
(The boy Jesus is found in the temple at Jerusalem.)

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

**People:**        **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader:        This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY**        “Go Tell It on the Mountain”        #388

**SERMON**        “*Busy, of course*”        Pastor James Schroeder

## CREED

*Nicene Creed*

*found in back of hymnal*

## 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.)

Leader: 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

Leader: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the Church, that the light of the Gospel of salvation be proclaimed here and everywhere, the wisdom of God be honored and followed, and the gifts of God be treasured and shared. Lord of the Church,

**People: in mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray as this New Year begins for our nation and for all of the people of the world, that there be an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness and wellness everywhere prevail. Lord of all times and all people,

**People: in mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for our families and our neighbors. Help us to remember that each person in our lives is a precious gift from God. Guided by the Holy Spirit, help us to choose wisely how we invest our time in the coming weeks and find in our associations with God’s people a source of mutual support and blessing. Lord of all generations,

**People: in mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all sorts and conditions of people, especially making our petitions for the hospitalized and those who are shut in. We pray for those whose lives are in transition, the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and for all those for whom our intercession is desired, [*including . . .*]. Lord of care and grace,  
**People: in mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: As a community of the faithful gathered, we remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this earthly life, especially those whose earthly lives came to an end in the past year. Direct our ways that we complete our journey of life in faith with divine wisdom to direct us. At the end of our days, bring us to rejoice together eternally with saints and angels and all the company of heaven in light everlasting. Lord of eternity,  
**People: in mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.  
**People: Amen.**

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### PREFACE

Leader: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*

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

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*

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

## PROPER PREFACE

**Leader:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have had mercy on us and sent Your only-begotten Son as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Grant us the gift of Your Spirit, that we receive Your wisdom and blessings with thankfulness. Help us to treasure the life of faith and worship we share and receive the body and blood of our Lord as the guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Leader:** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, who in giving Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to accomplish our salvation has manifested Your divine love. We thank You for the blessed Meal now set before us. Keep us mindful of the sacrifice of our Lord for us. Joined together in the name of our Lord and in the communion of saints on earth and those in heaven, we pray You to send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**People:** **Amen.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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

**Leader:** 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  $\times$  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  $\times$  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

Leader: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *Revelation 22:20*

Leader: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## 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.**

## PAX DOMINI

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

**People: Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” #361  
“A Great and Mighty Wonder” #383

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Leader: Let us pray.

Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Strengthen and support us, Your pilgrim people, so that we grow in wisdom and serve You and our neighbor. Keep us in Your care in the year that is beginning, and bring us at last to Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

## BENEDICTION

Leader: 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** “Angels We Have Heard on High” #368

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Music Leader: Daniel M. Meyers  
Organist: Sharilyn Rotta

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*Holy Communion is shared on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month.*