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January 4, 2026

The Second Sunday of Christmas

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Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

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## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

♪ O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

♪ For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond’ring love. O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!

♪ How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv’n! So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav’n. No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.

♪ O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 361—Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93; Text: Public domain*

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

**Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.**

I have more understanding than all my teachers,

**For Your testimonies are my meditation.**

I understand more than the aged,

**For I keep Your precepts.**

I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep Your word.

**I do not turn aside from Your just decrees, for You have taught me.**

How sweet are Your words to my taste,

**Sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

Through Your precepts I get understanding;

**Therefore I hate every false way.**

*Psalms 119:97–104*

## Confession and Absolution

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our**

**neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.** *A Time of Silence*

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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. Amen.**

## **Hymn of Praise** *Please Be Seated*

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

♪ Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.  
~Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo. Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

♪ Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song? ~Glo-ria...

♪ Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. ~Glo-ria....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 368-Text: French, tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, London 1862  
Tune: French, setting: Edward S. Barnes 1887-1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## **Old Testament Reading**

1 Kings 3:4–15

<sup>4</sup>And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. <sup>7</sup>And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other

king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup>And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

<sup>15</sup>And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Epistle

Ephesians 1:3–14

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

<sup>11</sup>In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

- ♪ Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undefined, To the world a stranger. Such a babe in such a place,  
Can He be the Savior? Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.
- ♪ Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him. Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,  
Heard the angels singing; All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.
- ♪ Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undefined But no more a stranger. Son of God of humble birth,  
Beautiful the story; Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 374—Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933; Text: Public domain

## Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Luke 2:40–52

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

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

<sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him

to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Nicene Creed**

### **Children's Message** *Please Be Seated*

#### **The Hymn**

"Once in Royal David's City"

- ♪ Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
- ♪ He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- ♪ For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.
- ♪ And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.
- ♪ Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 376—Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.; Text: Public domain

#### **Proclamation of the Word**

"In Him"

Ephesians 1:3–14

#### **Offering and Musical Offering**

##### **Preface** *Please Stand*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*2 Timothy 4:22*

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*Colossians 3:1*

Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

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

*Psalm 136*

## Proper Preface

**Sanctus Hymn** *Music: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Hymn 380*

♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim Shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, Sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes In the name of God our Lord.  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heav'n and earth adored!

## Words of Our Lord

### The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**Distribution Hymns** *Please Be Seated*

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

♪ It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

♪ Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats O'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

♪ All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,  
Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow:  
Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.

♪ For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,  
When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.  
His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,  
And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 366—Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt.; Text: Public domain*

"What Child Is This"

♪ What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

♪ Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

♪ So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 370-Text: William C. Dix 1837-98; Tune: English 16<sup>th</sup> cent.;  
Setting: John Stainer 1840-1901; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

**Prayer of the Church** *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

### **Benediction**

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.  
**Amen.**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**Recessional Hymn** *Please Be Seated*

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

~Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev’rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!

♪ While shepherds kept their watching O’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. Refrain

♪ The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior’s birth. Refrain

♪ Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 388-Text (sts. 1-3): John W. Work II, 1873-1925, alt.; (ref): African American spiritual; Text: Public domain*

### **Postlude**