

Sunday, December 26, 2021

First Sunday of Christmas

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us come together to worship the Messiah, our God and King!

We come to worship the Savior of the world. We come to worship the Messiah.

Jesus promised to be wherever two or more are gathered.

Christ is with us now. God calls us to turn back his love and mercy for us.

We turn to God, our merciful Redeemer. We are thankful for Jesus, Emmanuel, who comes to change the world.

Let us worship together as we meet with Jesus in this place.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, you know us inside and out. You are always with us and you never leave us or forsake us. We cannot escape your love. You formed us and you know us before we were born. You watch over us and always hear our prayers. We come before you now wanting to hear your voice. Forgive us for the times we have turned away from you and bring us closer to your Spirit once again. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of Love,

We confess that we have turned away from you. We have trouble trusting your promises for us. We let worry and fear overwhelm us. We do not always treat our neighbors with the love that you call us to give. For the sake of your Son, have mercy on us. Forgive us for our shortcomings, refresh us in this new year, and lead us in the way of Christ, so that we may glorify your holy name in all that we say and do. Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

God has come among us in the child born of Mary,

Christ the Lord. † In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.....Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod.

¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the Lord^l from the heavens; / praise God^l in the heights.

²**Praise the Lord, ^l all you angels;
sing praise, all you ^l hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the Lord, ^l sun and moon; / sing praise, all you ^l shining stars.

⁴**Praise the Lord, heav- ^l en of heavens,
and you waters a- ^l bove the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name ^l of the Lord,
who commanded, and they ^l were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forev- ^l er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not ^l pass away.**

⁷Praise the Lord^l from the earth, / you sea monsters ^l and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, ^l snow and fog, / tempestuous wind, do- ^l ing God's will;**
⁹mountains ^l and all hills, / fruit trees ^l and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts ^l and all cattle, / creeping things and ^l flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth ^l and all peoples,
princes and all rulers ^l of the world;

¹²**young ^l men and maidens, / old and ^l young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name ^l of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over ^l earth and
heaven.

¹⁴**The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all ^l
faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. ^l
Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-17

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

Lord hear our prayer.

All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Hear us, O God.

Lord hear our prayer.

Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness (*especially all those we name now or in our hearts*). Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God.

Lord hear our prayer.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God,

You bless us with all that we have. You have blessed our lives forever with the love of your Son and your gift of grace.

Empower us to change the lives of others with your Good News.

Bless our congregation, this community, and all the offerings we give back to you for your holy work, through Jesus Christ, our Messiah. Amen.

SENDING PRAYER

Let us pray....Dear God, in this time of holy worship you have refreshed us.

Guide our lives with your holy Word. Bring joy back into our journey with you. Send us forth now as witnesses of the Good News of your birth, that we also may be light for the world, in the name of Jesus, the Messiah. **Amen**

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior. **Thanks be to God.**