



**SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
**January 2, 2022**

**ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*A Place for Everyone . . .*

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The Rev. Linda Hostetter, Interim Pastor



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

*Peace to all who enter God's house for worship today.  
We pray that all will find strength, security, and fellowship with God and with one another.*

*Congregation, please stand/sit as you are able.*

**P** Presiding Minister   **C** Congregation   **A** Assisting Minister

**Welcome to our Visitors**

*If you are a visitor, please see one of our greeters and fill out our gold visitor's slip.  
We hope that you will come back and worship with us again!*

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

**THE GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

*Please stand.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**C** Amen.

☞ In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

☞ Holy God,

☛ **we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. 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.**

### **GATHERING HYMN: *The First Noel***

(green hymnal #56 first & last verse)

### **GREETING**

☞ From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

☛ **And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

☞ Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☛ **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

#### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

<sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,

and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.  
<sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.  
<sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
<sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

📖 This is the word of the Lord.      🙏 Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: 147:12-20**      📖/🙏 *by whole verse*

<sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,  
<sup>13</sup>**who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has  
blessed your children within you.**  
<sup>14</sup>God has established peace on your borders and satisfies  
you with the finest wheat.  
<sup>15</sup>**God sends out a command to the earth, a word that  
runs very swiftly.**  
<sup>16</sup>God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.  
<sup>17</sup>**God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand  
against God's cold?**  
<sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind  
blows, and the waters flow.  
<sup>19</sup>**God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments  
to Israel.**  
<sup>20</sup>The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not  
know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

## SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

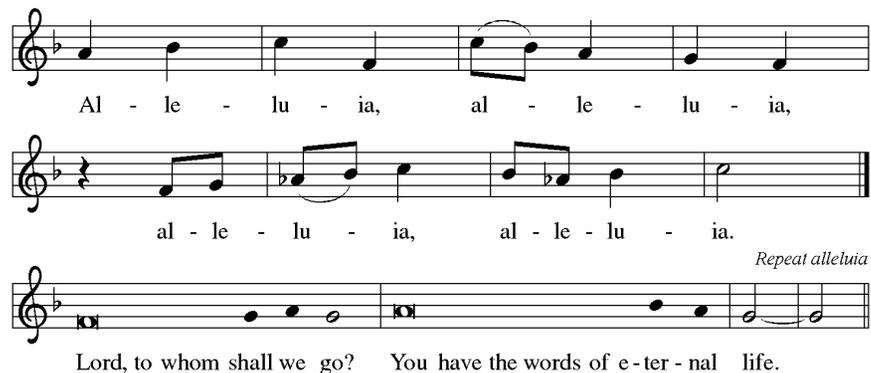
*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made  
know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through  
Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have  
been promised eternal salvation.*

<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>just as he chose us in Christ be-  
fore the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless  
before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his  
children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleas-  
ure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he  
freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have re-  
demption through his blood, the forgiveness of our tres-  
passes, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lav-  
ished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made  
known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good  
pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the full-  
ness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heav-  
en and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained  
an inheritance, having been destined according to the pur-  
pose of him who accomplishes all things according to his  
counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our  
hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In  
him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the  
gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were  
marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is  
the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's  
own people, to the praise of his glory.

📖 This is the word of the Lord.      🙏 Thanks be to God.

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

- 📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.
- 🎵 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

<sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

## GOSPEL RESPONSE

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

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### SERMON

*(Silence for a time of reflection)*

*Please stand.*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY: *O Word of God Incarnate***

*(green hymnal #231 first & last verse)*

## NICENE CREED

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  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living  
and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**A** 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.*

**A** You make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms. Draw our attention to those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all in need (*especially*). Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** You journey with us through change. Guide those assuming new roles in this congregation or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities. As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service. Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**P** Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C** Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE COMMUNION MEAL

### THE OFFERING

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*Please stand.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN:

### Create in Me a Clean Heart

#### *Offering Song*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Let us pray. Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C** Amen.

## DIALOGUE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

**P** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

*Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

*Please be seated.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

The elements were given as you entered.

**P** Please peel the top film and take your bread.  
The body of Christ given for you.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Open your cup by peeling back the foil.  
The blood of Christ shed for you.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please stand*

## BLESSING

☐ The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☑ Amen.

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## THE LITURGY OF SENDING FOR SERVICE

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

☐ Let us pray. We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

☑ Amen.

## BENEDICTION

☐ May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen.

☑ Amen.

## SENDING HYMN: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

(green hymnal #70 first & last verse)

## DISMISSAL

☐ Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

☑ Thanks be to God. We will!

## POSTLUDE

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