

The Divine Service

First Sunday after Christmas
December 31, 2023

AS WE GATHER

How long is a generation? Keepers of statistics suggest that a generation is between twenty and thirty years and note that at the present time there are six distinct generations living in the United States. The current generations range from our oldest citizens, known as the *Greatest Generation* through our youngest, given the group name of *Generation Z*. In the account of the presentation of our Lord in the temple at Jerusalem, we see Jesus as a baby from the youngest generation and we meet Anna the prophetess, well advanced into the most elderly generation, and Simeon, who is often portrayed as an older man. The temple is the place for all generations to experience the presence and blessing of God! The psalmist exults in praise to God: "One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts" (Psalm 145:4). As we worship, we continue that praise in this generation.

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Happy
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2024

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P 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.

C Amen.

Processional Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory" LSB 367 sts. 1, ref, 5

1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
△ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,
all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing
Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.
Refrain
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;
Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

"This Is the Feast"



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are His.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -

lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And Also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray. Gracious God of endings and beginnings, we commit to Your grace and forgiveness the year now being completed and commend to Your kindness and love the year about to begin. Throughout the coming weeks and months make the presence of Your Holy Spirit known in our lives, drawing us ever closer to Jesus and uniting all generations of Your faithful people in bonds of love and care, as we continue to grow in our baptismal grace and await the joy of eternal life in Your glorious presence. This we ask for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.
C **Amen.**

The Old Testament

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. ¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch.²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

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Epistle

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the lyrics: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?". The second staff contains the lyrics: "You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia." The music consists of simple quarter and eighth notes with lyrics aligned underneath.

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 12:32–40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

³²“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

³³Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. ³⁵“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

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1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Sermon

"Blessed are These Who are Awake"

Pastor Scott Henze

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Petitions end, "Lord, in your mercy..." "Congregation responds, "Hear our Prayer".

Offering

Offertory Prayer

- P** God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Receive now these gifts you have first given and fill us with good things at your table, that we might joyfully and generously share all you have given us, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

A word about Holy Communion

We are about to receive the Lord's Supper. Before you receive, you might consider the following questions: Do you believe you are a sinner? Do you believe Jesus Christ died for you and shed his blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins? Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper he gives you his true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and strengthens your faith in him and your love for others? If you are a baptized Christian and share these Biblical truths, please come! Those who have not yet received instruction may come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over their chest to indicate they are not receiving

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 177

- 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 Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

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C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Words of Institution

The Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(The congregation and minister may greet each other with the peace of the Lord)

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Agnus Dei

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.


Text: Stephen P. Starke



Hymns during Distribution

“Be Still, My Soul, before the Lord”


LSB 771



1 Be still, my soul, be - fore the Lord, For
2 You need not mul - ti - ply your words Nor
3 Wait, then, in qui - et con - fi - dence, Your
4 Be still, my soul, be - fore the Lord; On



God is al - ways near. Be - fore your mind is
pray with prac - ticed art. Be - yond all speech, God
anx - ious thoughts at rest. God knows your needs be -
God in pa - tience wait. God's love, un - seen, sur -



moved to pray, God lis - tens and will hear.
un - der - stands The hun - ger of your heart.
fore you ask And works for what is best.
rounds your life; God's help will not be late.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007

Tune: Marty Haugen, 1950

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Tune: © 1984, 2006 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000828

BE
Still
MY SOUL



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let
 3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My
 4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The

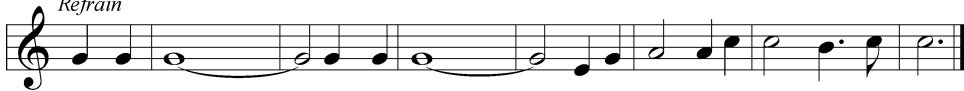


sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

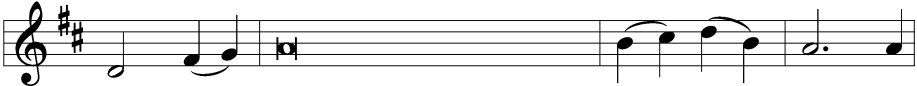


Post Communion Canticle

(Stand as you are able)

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Post-Communion Prayer

- P** Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

Benediction

Recessional Verse

"Abide with Me"

LSB 878 sts. 1, 6



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
6 Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Dismissal

- P** Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....
C **Disciples making disciples.**
- P** Go in peace and serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. Call the church office at 954-384-9096 if you or someone you know would like to speak with a Stephen Minister.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

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Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Sunday School for children and youth: 9:45 AM

Adult Bible Study: 10:00 AM



Website and online

St. Paul
LUTHERAN CHURCH
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