

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 3, 2021

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Lord of Life Liturgy [Dr. Bradley C. Hunnicutt] (portions)

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.

Joys and Concerns

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, †one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

C. Amen

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. God of goodness and lovingkindness,

C. **we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to your, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P. Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

C. Amen

Gathering Hymn

That Boy-Child of Mary

ELW 293

Greeting

P. Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

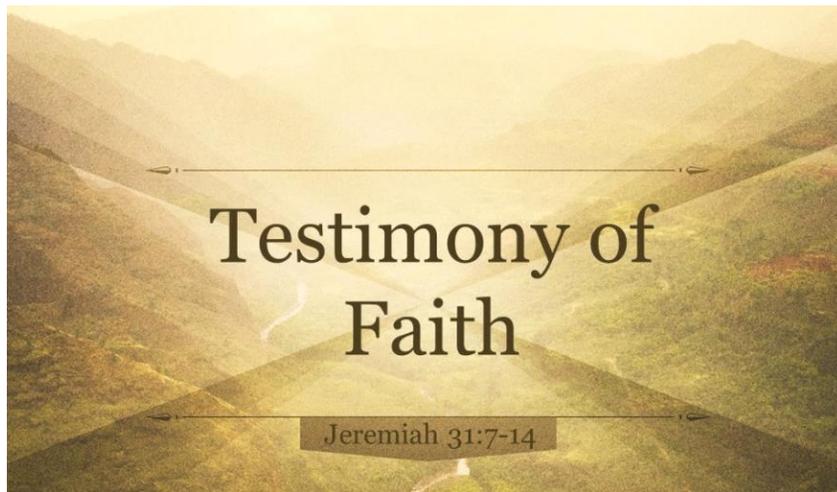
Angels, From the Realms of Glory

ELW 275

Prayer of the Day

P. Let us pray

C. **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.**



First Reading

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."

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.

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.

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." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

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.

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. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

P. Word of God. Word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God**

Worship the LORD, ¹ O Jerusalem;
praise your ¹ God, O Zion,

**who has strengthened the bars ¹ of your gates
and has blessed your chil- ¹ dren within you.**

God has established peace ¹ on your borders
and satisfies you with the ¹ finest wheat.

**God sends out a command ¹ to the earth,
a word that runs ¹ very swiftly.**

God gives ¹ snow like wool,
scattering ¹ frost like ashes.

**God scatters ¹ hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand a- ¹ gainst God's cold?**

The LORD sends forth the ¹ word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the ¹ waters flow.

**God declares the ¹ word to Jacob,
statutes and judg- ¹ ments to Israel.**

The LORD has not done so to any ¹ other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. ¹ Hallelujah!



Gospel Gifts
Ephesians 1:3-14

Second Reading

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, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 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; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

P. Word of God. Word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

P. The holy gospel according to Saint John, chapter one.



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

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

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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. (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.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 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.

P. The gospel of the Lord.



The 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 worshipped 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.

I Believe ⁱⁿ
ONE ^{GOD}
the Father the Almighty
Maker of ^{Heaven &} Earth
of all that is **SEEN** ^{and}
UNSEEN

Prayers of Intercession

- P. Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

- P. 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.

C. Amen.

The Peace

- P. Jesus said: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled. May His peace be with you always.

C. And also with you.

Peace
I give to you.
JOHN 14:27

Praise
and give thanks to *the*
Lord

The Great Thanksgiving



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 God thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed.....

The Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might: heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
slower san - na in the high - est. *a tempo* Bless - ed, bless-ed is the one
who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est

Words of Institution

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*

Lamb of God

slowly

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer-cy, have mer-cy on us.

Je - sus, bear-er of our sins, have mer-cy, have mer-cy on us.

Je - sus, re-deem-er of the world, give us your peace.

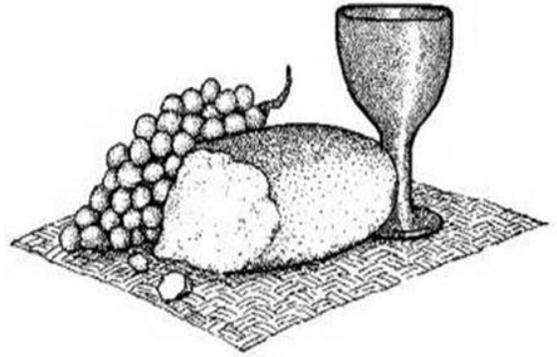
Invitation to Communion

P. The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. Meet Christ in this meal.

C. Amen.

P. The body of Christ broken for you. (Congregants eat the bread.)

P. The blood of Christ shed for you. (Congregants drink the wine.)



Communion Hymn

What Feast of Love

ELW 487



Post Communion Blessing

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C. Amen

Post Communion Canticle

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry - one what
God has done. Let ev-'ry - one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and proud - ly bear His name.
He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peop - ple
forth in joy with shouts, with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al -
le - lu - ia.

Al-le-lu-ia!

Post Communion Prayer

P. We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C. Amen.



Benedictus

Leader
The Lord bless you and keep you.

Congregation
The Lord bless you and keep you, too.

Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to
The Lord make his face shine on you

you. The Lord look up on you with fa-vor and
and be gra-cious to you. The

give you peace. A - men.
Lord look up on you with fa - vor and give you peace. A - men.

Sending Hymn

Cold December Flies Away

ELW 299

Dismissal

P. Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Brad Hunnicutt