



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

January 1, 2023, First Sunday of Christmas

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”

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**Welcome to Worship this morning. We will be sharing Holy Communion. Communion will be given two ways, you can either come up front and receive from Pastor, or Pastor can commune you, or you can pick up the convenient cup/wafer before the service and receive at your seat.**

**Reminder: We are videoing “live”.**



As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

## Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of Candles

### Hymn    “The Bells of Christmas”

### Red Worship Book 298

- 1 The bells of Christmas chime once more; the heav’lly guest is at the door. He comes to earthly dwellings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
- 2 This world, though wide and far outspread, could scarcely find for you a bed. Your cradle was a manger stall, no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.
- 3 Now let us go with quiet mind, the swaddled babe with shepherds find, to gaze on him who gladdens them, the loveliest flow’r of Jesse’s stem.
- 4 Oh, join with me, in gladness sing, to keep our Christmas with our king, until our song, from loving souls, like rushing mighty water rolls!

## Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

C: Amen.

L: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: God of life,

**C: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

**Amen.**

L: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God’s promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

**C: Amen.**

## Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

## Kyrie

*Refrain*

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev'-ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

*Refrain*

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## Canticle of Praise

### "The Bells of Christmas"

Red Worship Book 298

- 5 O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song, O Dayspring bright, awaited long, O Son of Man, incarnate Word, great David's Son, great David's Lord:
- 6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest, and keep your Christmas in our breast; then David's harpstrings, hushed so long, shall swell our jubilee of song.

## Prayer of Day

C: O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.*

## **First Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9**

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

<sup>8</sup>For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely”; and he became their savior

<sup>9</sup>in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

## **Psalm 148**

L: Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;

C: praise God in the heights.

L: Praise the LORD, all you angels;

**C: sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

L: Praise the LORD, sun and moon;

**C: sing praise, all you shining stars.**

L: Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,

**C: and you waters above the heavens.**

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD,

**C: who commanded, and they were created,**

L: who made them stand fast forever and ever,

**C: giving them a law that shall not pass away. R**

L: Praise the LORD from the earth,

**C: you sea monsters and all deeps;**

L: fire and hail, snow and fog,

**C: tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

L: mountains and all hills,

**C: fruit trees and all cedars;**

L: wild beasts and all cattle,

**C: creeping things and flying birds;**

L: sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,

**C: princes and all rulers of the world;**

L: young men and maidens,

**C: old and young together. R**

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD,

**C: whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.**

L: The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,

**C: the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah! R**

*Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.*

## **Second Reading: Hebrews 2:10-18**

<sup>10</sup>It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup>saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

<sup>13</sup>And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

<sup>14</sup>Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the

descendants of Abraham.<sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.<sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

### The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord (Spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 205

#### Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

<sup>13</sup>Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."<sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,<sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

<sup>16</sup>When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.<sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

<sup>19</sup>When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup>"Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."<sup>21</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.<sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.<sup>23</sup>There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

### The Gospel of Our Lord

Red Worship Book pg. 206

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Children's Sermon “”

Elaine Garaghty

Sermon “”

Elaine Garaghty

#### Hymn “What Child is This”

Red Worship Book 296

- 1 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!
- 2 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!
- 3 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!

#### Offering/Hymn “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Red Worship Book 282

- 1 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, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king." The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
- 2 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.
- 3 And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow: look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing; oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!
- 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

## **Offering Prayer**

L: God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

**C: Amen**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

L: With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

*A brief silence.*

L: Merciful God, broaden the church's hospitality and welcome. Open our hearts to any in need of refuge and help, especially those who are persecuted. Prosper the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Life-giving God, restore the health of the soil, the seas, and the air. Increase the joy and praise of all living things. In the coming year strengthen local, national, and international efforts to prevent further harm to the environment. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Liberating God, deliver your people from cruel oppression. Increase justice in every nation and keep the dream of freedom alive. In this new year bring the blessing of peace and put an end to violent conflict throughout the world. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Uplifting God, raise all who are bowed down by trouble and need, especially individuals and families living in poverty. Protect and nurture all children. Sustain those who parent, teach, and care for the young. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Abiding God, accompany this community in the coming year. Increase our love for one another and the neighbors we serve. Enrich our worship and deepen our faith. Sustain our pastor/s (*name/s*) and all who minister in your name. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Loving God, the holy innocents who perish in every generation are safe in your keeping. We give you thanks and praise for the all the faithful who have gone before us into everlasting life with you. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

**C: Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Red Worship Book pg. 208**

**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.**

## **Blessing**

L: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,<sup>+</sup> bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Hymn      "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"**

**Red Worship Book 288**

**1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today!**

Christ is born today!

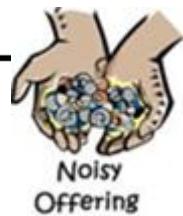
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

*the worship is ended ... let the service begin....*



**\*\*The Noisy Offering" for January is for  
The Blessing Box, there will be a bowl as you exit the church.**

#### Next Week's Readings and Psalm

##### **First Reading**

**Isaiah 42:1-9**

**Psalm**

**Psalm 29**

##### **Second Reading**

**Acts 10:34-43**

**Gospel**

**Matthew 3:13-17**



**Prayer Concerns and Sympathy** ~ Virgil Seegerbarth, Colleen Volden, Jerry Shober, Bradley Fairbanks, Leigha Ness, Kathy Thompson, Lana Jensen, Wally Guptill, Yvonne Guptill, Drew (Mindy's brother), and Marsha Skoog (friend of Patty Sweeny).

**Care facility member ~Dorothy Svendsen.**

**For Health Care Workers, Firefighters, EMT's, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.**

**For world peace. For our companion synods.**

**For our missionaries: Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke**

#### Announcements/Calendar

**Sun.** 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship/Elaine Garaghty preaching.

**Tues.** 9:30 am Women's Bible Study.

**Wed.** 5-7 pm Confirmation; 5-6:30 pm FiA; 6:30 pm Worship/Rick Dunkley preaching; 7-8 pm Youth Group; 7:15 Church Council.

**Thurs.** 8 am Men's Text Study.

**Sat.** 8 pm AA mtg.

**Sun.** 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship/HC/Pastor Kate Mensing preaching; Take Christmas decorations down; Leave at 3 pm for MN Wild Game.



Thank you to Elaine Garaghty for preaching today!

## USHERS



### Ushers needed for 2023

This is an important part of worship and requires a small commitment of one month of Sundays a year. Fact is, presently 7 of our ushers are 80 or older and 9 of our ushers are 70 or older. We need more ushers willing to serve in 2023 (especially for the month of October.) If you are not already an usher and would be willing to help, let Dennis Volden know (612-390-4829)

### Annual Meeting, is Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, immediately following Worship.

All confirmed members are encouraged to stay for the meeting. We need to have a quorum to vote or otherwise council will make the decisions.



We need to vote on church council positions that need to be filled; new board members whose terms are expiring; and many other positions; look at reports and approve the budget; vote on congregational project (s); and any other church business.

This is your chance to have your voice/vote heard/ counted,  
**WE NEED YOU!!!**



The Blanket Exercise, originally created by Kairos in collaboration with Indigenous communities in Canada, is an interactive learning experience that raises awareness of the nation-to-nation relationship between Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in the United States. Based on real-life experiences, the Blanket Exercise is designed to increase knowledge about the laws, policies, and programs used during nation building by having participants literally walk through U.S. history.

Please contact Elaine Garaghty if interested. (763-229-1035)