

Dec 27 2020 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
Service of Word and Prayer

We are using the Service of the Word liturgy this morning, from your green hymn book, the Lutheran Book of Worship, page 126. The prayers are based on Sundays & Seasons. Shut off all the distractions in your home. Enjoy the quiet for a bit – take in some deep breaths. Light your candle. May your family be blessed in this time together. You might still include your Advent wreath as part of your home worship centre.

The Gathering

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

Hymn: LBW 55, ELW 288 - Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Dialogue p.127

Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
I will hear what the Lord has to say - a voice that speaks for peace.
Peace for all people and his friends and those who turn to him in their hearts.
His help is near for those who fear him, and his glory will live in our land.
Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with you ~ and also with you.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ your Son, Our Lord. Amen.

The Word

The Old Testament lesson is from **Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

Psalm 148 page 288

The New Testament lesson is from **Galatians 4:4-7**

Please rise for the gospel lesson.

Holy, Holy, Holy, our hearts adore you. Our hearts are glad to say the words: you are Holy God.

Gospel & Homily ~ The Rev. Dr. Michael Pryse - Bishop of the Eastern Synod

Hymn: LBW70 ELW290 - Go Tell It on The Mountain

Our Response

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Oh God, you have been our help in ages past, our hope for years to come. As we welcome this New Year, bless us all with peace. Fill our days with the light of Christ and lead us on the path of life during 2021. You live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Prayers of the people are led by Andy Kalnins

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.*

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Heal those who are sick or hurting *especially the Witt family, Chris & Kathy, Ed & Rosemary, the Roberts family, Fred, Gladys, Joe & Shelley. We also pray for our friends: Annie, Joan, Dorothy, Leslie, Ron K., Tere B., Lorraine, Barb, Diane & family, Gilbert and Claudette.* Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who still work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. For all your saints, we give you thanks. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

The peace of Christ be with you always and also with you.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray **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.

Hymn: WOV 643, ELW 269 - Once in Royal David's City

Benediction

May the Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
May the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
And may the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
+now and forever. Amen.

Dismissal Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.