

Service of The Word
Second Sunday of Christmas
January 2, 2022
10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” - Hugo Gehrke
Variations on “Adeste Fideles” - Russell Schulz-Widmar

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God’s forgiveness, grace, and love.

Silence is kept for reflection. The congregation may kneel or sit.

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, “Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

In † Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May we know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God’s forgiveness is good news of great joy!

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

Red Book #275

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit 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.

THE WORD

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷Thus 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."

⁸See, 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.

⁹With 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.

¹⁰Hear 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."

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They 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.

¹³Then 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.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:12-20 *read responsively*

¹²Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,

¹³**who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵**God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷**God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?**

¹⁸The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹**God declares the word to Jacob,**

statutes and judgments to Israel.

²⁰The 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.

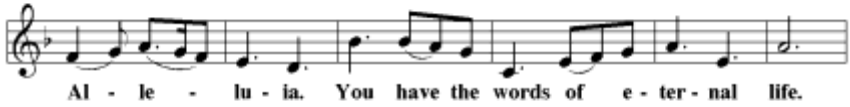
³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In 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, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In 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; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 1: [1-9] 10-18

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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

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

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(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.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may be seated.

SERMON "Star Words"

Enclosed in your bulletin today is a paper card with a star and a unique word. This word was chosen at random during the mailing of our bulletins. We invite you to reflect on this word as your "star word" for 2022.

The tradition of "star words" or "star gifts" has been growing in popularity in churches of all kinds for the last decade in connection with the celebration of Christmas and Epiphany. At Christmas, God's word became flesh in Jesus. In his incarnation, God blesses our everyday lives and God continues to speak to us through ordinary, human words in which God's grace and truth can be found. At Epiphany, sages from the East were led to Bethlehem by the rising of a star. The star word tradition brings these central faith convictions together in a prayer practice. This year, you are invited to reflect on the word that you have received and to use it as a guide to prayer. In 2020—the last time First English did star words—some of our people put their stars on their bathroom mirrors, or on their daily calendars, or in their cars—as a prompt for reflection? What does this word say to you? Where might it show up in your life over the next year? How do we see and discern God's presence in our daily lives?

The randomness of the star is part of the practice! In not choosing the word for a year, we practice receiving. God promises that we receive Christ's grace in Word and Sacrament. We do not earn it—we can only put our hands out. Nor can we control how God's grace shows up in our daily lives.

The congregation may stand.

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

Confident in the love and grace shown to us in the infant Christ Jesus, let us bring our prayers and requests to God. Our response to each petition is, "Hear our prayer."

For all your people throughout the world, that we walk into this year with confidence and hope in you. Help us hear you speaking to us in our daily lives. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For our nation, and for all nations throughout the world, that they would welcome your Son as Prince of Peace and so put an end to divisiveness, violence, and war. Today, we remember the people of Ethiopia, Yemen, Syria, and all other places not in our awareness but known to you. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For all who have suffered abuse of any kind. Make clear a pathway to justice, mend bodies and souls, and bring about experiences of wholeness. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

For patience as walk through this pandemic. Give rest to the weary, healing to the ill, hope to the despairing, and relief to those who have lost livelihoods. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For those in special need whom we now name aloud before you...*(pause)* .and for those whose names are known to you alone, that You would give whatever you see that they need. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For friends and family from whom we are estranged, and for all who live with broken relationships, that they—and we—might seek healing in Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We thank you, O God, for those who now worship you on another shore and in a greater light. We remember especially those whom we name here before you...Before you, O God, we also bless the witness of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and we ask that justice, forgiveness, and peace-building may also be shown forth in our lives. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation may share the peace by waving at those around you. Please remain in the pew where you are standing or sitting as you share the peace!

ORGAN OFFERTORY

“The First Nowell”

- Hugo Gehrke

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life through the word of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

May the Lord God, give us the joy of the angels, the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. And the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with us now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“The First Noel”

Red Book #300

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“In dulci jubilo”

- Marcel Dupré

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Mollie Hibbs	Assisting Minister
Amy Beiler	Reader
Emily Stein	Crucifer
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Sue Morrow	AV Assisting Minister
Melody Kameron	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Bob and Karen Domanski	Ushers
Bob and Karen Domanski	Counters

Flowers are given to the glory of God by the congregation of First English Lutheran Church.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 1/3	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wed., 1/5	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 1/6	7:00 PM	BALM Epiphany Service at Trinity Lutheran
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Fri., 1/7		Pastor Kimberly’s Day Off
Sat., 1/8	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zoom meeting info:

To join online, click ‘Join Our ZOOM Meeting’ in the email.

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

Password: 408299

To join via telephone, dial: +1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

Password: 408299



Mark Your Calendar: The weekend of February 26th & 27th the Butler churches that hold weekly community dinners for the needy in our area will be holding a fundraising Gala & Art Show & Sale at Trinity Lutheran Church. Profits from this event will benefit each of the dinners. We are looking for individuals and businesses wanting to help by providing a donation, a basket for our raffle, or some other level of sponsorship. If you are interested in helping with this exciting weekend, please contact the church office (724-283-2378) for more details.

PRAYERS

Vonnie Baker; Cayla Chapman; John Negley; Violet; the family of Bob Brandon; the family of Tamara Lehew Whitty; those affected by the shooting at Oxford High School in Michigan; the Ball family; Deb L.; Fred Miller; the family of Ruth Walker; Bob Ringler; the McClellan family; the family of Glenn Miller; Hazel Warheit; Emma Lee and David Hartle; the family of Joyce Hall; Eric; Lisa; Jan Nieto; Kathy Kline's niece

Rose; Bill and Judy Vilcheck and family; the family of Kara Greeley; the family of Larry Kline; Jeff LaLonde; the Pelgrin and Buehler family; Jean Morrow; families of Joan Chew, Henry Sinopoli, and Mark Grossman; family of Shirley Sellers; family of Barbara Petanovich and Curtis Wilbert; friend of the Swansons; Don, Betty and family; Mia Gill; Claude and all the soldiers who have been recently deployed to Kuwait as well as their families; Eleanor Roth; Joe Roudebush; Joe and Linda; Dave Konesni; Raymond Sawyer; Donna; the family of Rita Wagner; the family of Carol Duffus; Judy O. and family; Graham Cannon; Anne Ferguson; Claudia; Karen; Anita; Kitty Walker; Nancy Hoehn; Tad Sellers; Aryl Bashline; Jenna; Tom Olson; Pam Patterson

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 43:1-7

When you pass through the waters, do not fear, for I am with you

Psalm 29

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

Acts 8:14-17

Prayer and laying on of hands for the Holy Spirit

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The baptism of Jesus with the descent of the Holy Spirit