

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 3, 2021 + Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Focus on the Season: Second Sunday of Christmas

In the waning days of the Christmas season, we reflect more deeply on the significance of the Christ who was born at Bethlehem. Our minds may not be able to comprehend just how Jesus existed with God from the beginning of time. What we do know is this: God comes into our presence today through Jesus Christ. God is made flesh among us, and we now become the enfleshed presence of God in the world.

Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship today. The links are embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. You can also print these pages and use the links in the email.



Centering and Gathering

Light your candle. [Start the video by clicking here](#); it will continue through the Postlude.

PRELUDE: "Symphony Noel" Michael Corrette (1707-1795)
Recorded at Mount Olive on Christmas Eve, 2013.

HYMN: ELW 283, "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful"
Sung at Mount Olive on Christmas Eve, 2019.

Word

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW 270, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
Sung at Mount Olive on Christmas Day, 2016.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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: Jeremiah 31:7-14; reader – John Crippen, lector

⁷ For 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."

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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."

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

¹² 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.

¹³ 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.

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

HYMN *ELW* 291 "Let Our Gladness Have No End"

Recorded on Christmas Day, 2019

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14; reader – David Anderson, assisting minister

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *ELW* 286, "Your Little Ones, Dear Lord" stanzas 1 and 2

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:10-18

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

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the 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.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ 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.

HYMN: ELW 286, "Your Little Ones, Dear Lord" stanzas 3 and 4

Sung at Mount Olive on Christmas Day, 2016.

SERMON

A Prologue

Vicar Andrea Bonneville

Silence for reflection.

HYMN: ELW 295 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Sung at Mount Olive on Christmas Day, 2019.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Our Assisting Minister for today, David Anderson, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this morning. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ. (Our weekly prayer list is on the last page.) Response: **Hear our prayer.***

PEACE *Please greet one another with Christ's peace.*

OFFERING

There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. *The Olive Branch* has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See:

<https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>

HYMN: ELW 296, "What Child Is This"

Sung at Mount Olive on Christmas Day, 2016.

Sending

LORD'S PRAYER *Pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

BLESSING *Response: **Amen***

HYMN: ELW 292, "Love Has Come"

Sung at Mount Olive on Christmas Eve, 2019.

DISMISSAL *The assisting minister leads the dismissal.*

📖 Go in peace. Share the Good News!

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Recorded on December 19, 2020.



In Our Prayers

- Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: James Wilkes; Charlotte Erlandson; JoAnn Norheim; Mary Lee; Elizabeth Beissel, Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Leanna Kloempken; Kandi Jo Nelson; Jerry Ostlund; Pariann Schenk; Christine Walberg; Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Jodi Royce, daughter of Julia Adams and daughter-in-law of Evelyn Royce; Kjell Thompson, relative of Nancy Anderson; Tommie and Susie Hunter, Danna Nelson, Jacques, friends of Jim Bargmann; Tom McCarr, friend of Keith Bartz; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Randy Caverly and Nancy Stelling, nephew and friend of Marcia & Dan Burow; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Klarrisa Ramirez, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Susan Bary, friend of Judy Graves; Dolores & David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr., parents and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister; Lynn Kernkamp, friend of Peggy Hoeft; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Craig Cunningham, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; Donald Johnson, father of Nicholas Johnson; Nicole Sanders, Ann Clark, James Alexander, and Susan Douglass, daughter, friends, and relative of Mary Rose Kaliher; Danielle Pitzen, friend of Ellen Kormanik; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson, Harper Linqvist, Steve Camper, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Janet Freeburg, friend of Lisa Nordeen; Michael Waechter, friend of Rod & Connie Olson; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; Jay Heffern, friend of Gary Pagel; Jerry Baack and Todd Erickson, friends of Jean & Doug Parish; Melissa Suchor, niece of Mike Rader; Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbesh Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; Doug Erhard, nephew of Evelyn Royce; Leila Jeffers, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; Norlene Bateman, aunt of Ted Thompson; Jennifer Kobylinski, cousin of Kathy Thurston; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Andrew Weichman, Levi Boswell, son and nephew of Grace Wiechman; BJ Wilkes, Joshua Wilkes, LaTrell Wilkes and Julius Underwood, and Lonnell Wilkes, son, nephews, grandson and brother of James Wilkes; Sandra Dycus, Becky Groska, Diane Ristrom, Cathy Reid, Karen Swanson, Patrick Clark, Annie Hose-Ryan, Marcia Van Gorden, friends of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Anne-Marie Lundberg, cousin of Eric Zander; Judy & John Bonnes, Tommie & Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.*
- For those celebrating their baptism anniversaries this week:** Russell Pearson, Matthew Crosby, Julia Melang, Margaret Melang, and Eric Manuel.
- Prayers for all in the health care system here and around the world** who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.
- Our continual prayers are offered for peace:** We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: Solveig & Philip, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and Tyson Crosby, relative of the Crosby family.
- We remember the saints who have gone before us:** (no commemorations this week)