

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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Second Sunday after Christmas † January 3, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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. **Amen.**

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

God of goodness and lovingkindness,

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 you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

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. **Amen.**

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

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

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

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.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

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 our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

PRAYERS

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.

Your mercy is great.

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness, especially we remember those in our hearts and minds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith. With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. 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.

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

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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BIBLE STUDY: Next weeks readings are: First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7, Gospel: Mark 1:4-11. Please join us weekly on Wednesday at 6:00 pm on Zoom. We discuss the texts for the upcoming Sunday. Some guiding questions are: what sticks out, what are you noticing, and what is challenging you in this text. We have a lot of fun and learn some, too! We would love for you to join us! You can join host Carey Plummer and Pastor Janine Shearer a little before the hour by entering the following information on the Zoom page: Meeting #817 3901 3743 and Password: church12. No need to be a Bible scholar!! Just have your Bible handy!!

Devotionals

Portals of Prayer and *Christ In Our Home* are available. There are both regular and large print editions. They will be available in the mailbox by the back doors. Please help yourself to your favorite devotional book.

Offering

If you are interested, you may sign up for Simply Giving through Vanco by contacting treasurer Julie Kohout, or send your offering to Emanuel Lutheran Church, PO Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545. **Please do not send cash in the mail!**

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