

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

December 27, 2020

10:00 a.m.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**



*The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.*

**PRELUDE** *What Child is This*

tune *Greensleeves*, setting by Richard Purvis (1913-1994)  
Karen Sande, organ

**WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**

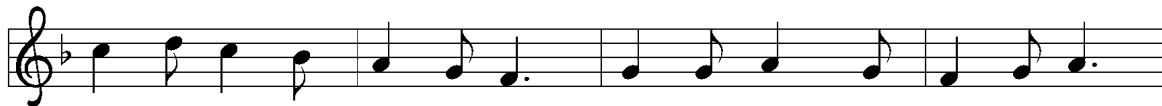
Hear the good news of peace and salvation!  
God forgives us all our sins,  
not through our own work,  
but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.  
With all who come to the manger,  
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN #288**     *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice     with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice     with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice     with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say:     Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss:     Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave;     Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day!                     Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this!                 Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save!                     Christ was born to save!

**APOSTOLIC 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**

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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

**TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES**

Logan McLean, Pastoral Intern

**FIRST READING *Isaiah 61:10—62:3***

*read by Jane Worley*

- <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.
- <sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.
- <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
- <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN #276 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly***



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

**SECOND READING *Galatians 4:4-7***

*read by Jane Worley*

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

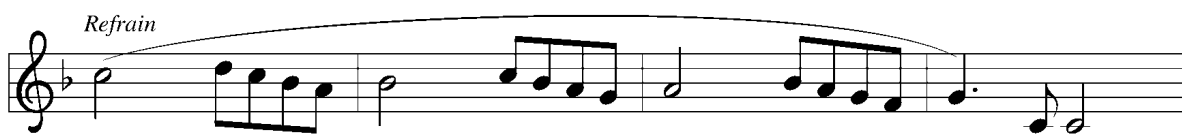
**GOSPEL VERSE** *sing v. 1 of Hymn #289 Angels We Have Heard on High*



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



*Refrain*  
Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o.

**GOSPEL** *Luke 2:22-40*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.  
<sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

**Gospel Verse *sing v. 3 of Hymn #289 Angels We Have Heard on High***

**SERMON**

Logan McLean Strike, Pastoral Intern

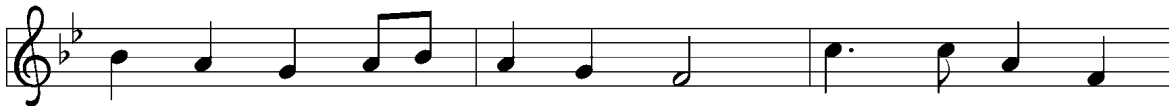
## HYMN OF THE DAY #417 *In His Temple Now Behold Him*



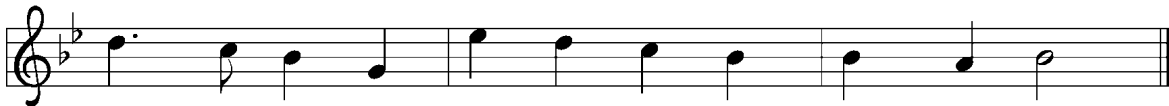
1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -  
2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -  
3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,  
4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less



pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,  
hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,  
weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,  
love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en



God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,  
ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
seal us with your prom - ise sure; and pre - sent us,  
by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther



his re - deem - ed shall break forth with one ac - cord.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!  
in your glo - ry, to your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.  
and the Spir - it God of maj - es - ty su - preme!

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God. *or* Bless we the Lord,  
Your mercy is great. **Thanks be to God!**

### THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### OFFERING

*You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to 218-325-9525 with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.*

**OFFERTORY MUSIC** *Christmas Overture*

Bryan Gatten  
prerecorded by Bryan Gatten, guitar

**OFFERING PRAYER**

How silently the wondrous gift is given. Open our hands and our hearts to receive this Child. Bless our offerings of gratitude as outpourings of your light that they might be used to share in word and deed with all who hunger for the good news you bring. Through the Christ child we pray. **Amen.**

**FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY**

*I will bring her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. Hosea 2:14*

As we travel through the uncertainties of this time, we remember the journey of Mary and Joseph, no place in the inn, the wilderness of the stable, and the guests of shepherds and kings. We take bread remembering that as God sustained this holy family, God sustains us. We break off a piece of bread, touching, tasting and seeing, remembering our God- Breath of Heaven come to earth. **Amen.**



HYMN #294 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Savior taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

### OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

#### BLESSING

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

Almighty God,

Who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,

Proclaimed joy through the angels,

Sent the shepherds with good news,

And led the magi by a star,

Bless you this day through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN #290 *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

tune *In Dulci Jubilo*, setting by Paul Manz  
Karen Sande, organ

**MINISTERS** All People of First Lutheran Church  
**PASTOR** The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman  
**PASTORAL INTERN** Logan McLean Strike  
**PROGRAM STAFF** Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate  
Karen Sande, Director of Music  
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities  
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship  
**MUSICIANS** Aine Miller, Erna Peterson, Glen Peterson, Glen Backman, and Michael  
Fuchs, singers.  
**VIDEOGRAPHER** Shania Krause, Sam Weston  
**DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER** Stacie Curnow

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First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land.  
We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

**faithlovecommunity**

First Lutheran Church

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