



The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

- John 1:14

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Second Sunday of Christmas – January 4, 2015
PO Box 411
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Rev. Robert Newpher, Interim Pastor
Jacob Gordon, Director of Music

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

The Second Sunday of Christmas – January 4, 2015

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

PRELUDE: *Brightest and Best of the Stars* – Robert Hobby

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the Maker of heaven and earth,
the Word made flesh,
the Lord and giver of life.

Amen.

Let us come into the light of Christ,
confessing our need for God's mercy.

God of peace,
**we confess that we are not at peace—
with others or with ourselves.**
**We bring to you all that tears us apart:
discord in our families,
violence in our world,
our own conflicted hearts.**
In your mercy, mend us.
Reconnect us to one another and to you.
**Let peace reign over all the earth,
through the Prince of peace,
our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

In the Word who has come to dwell with us,
God has given us grace upon grace:
forgiveness that is stronger than our sins,
love that can heal every broken heart.
Hear this word of God's pardon and peace:
in the name of + Jesus our Savior,
you are free from all your sins.
Rise, shine, for your light has come.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG #303: *Brightest and Best of the Stars

***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.

***GLORY TO GOD**



All glo - ry be to God on high and peace to all on earth;
Lord Christ, you are the Lamb of God, who takes our sin a - way;
You are the Ho - ly One, Most High, Lord Je - sus Christ, a - lone,



Lord God, al-might-y Fa-ther, King, we praise you for your worth.
now seat - ed at the Fa-ther's side, have mer - cy when we pray.
you and the Ho - ly Spir - it with the Fa - ther on his throne.

***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.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7–14 (page 734 in Old Testament)

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.

⁷For 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."

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

1. Ex - tol the Lord, O Zi - on: he bless - es you with peace.
2. He speaks to all his peo - ple; they know his law and word.

He bless - es all your chil - dren; his gra - cious gifts inc - rease.
No oth - er land is fa - vored, nor is their con - science stirred.

He speaks and makes the snow fall like wool up - on the land.
Let all who know his bles - sing, his lov - ing, right - eous ways,

His word sends warmth; the sea - sons are gath - ered in his hand.
Sing praise to their Cre - a - tor. How good his name to praise!

Text: Psalm 147; vers. Marie J. Post

HAF TRONES LAMPA FARDIG

Music: Swedish folk tune

Text © 1987, CRC Publications. CCLI #3219012

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3–14 (page 192 in New Testament)

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known 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.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

1. The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly
2. O pa - triarchs' Joy, O proph - ets' Song, O Day - spring
3. Come, Je - sus, glo - rious heav'n - ly guest, and keep your
guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly
bright, a - wait - ed long, O Son of Man, in -
Christ - mas in our breast; then Da - vid's harp - strings,
dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
- car - nate Word, great Da - vid's Son, great Da - vid's Lord.
hushed so long, shall swell our ju - bi - lee of song.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, alt. DET KIMER NU TIL JULEFEST
Music: Carl C. N. Balle

***GOSPEL READING: John 1:1–18** (page 91 in New Testament)

The holy gospel according to John.

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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #510: *Word of God, Come Down on Earth

***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**

Rejoicing in the light of Christ that shines upon us, we pray for the church, the world, and all according to their needs.

O God, your light shines in the face of our brother, Jesus. Enliven the church's testimony about the grace and truth made known in his life, death, and resurrection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, you speak in the immensity of space and the tiny detail of every grain of sand. We praise you for the creative joy evident in the wonder of life all around us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, with holy delight you led your chosen people out of slavery into freedom. Bring freedom and peace to exiles, refugees, and those oppressed by harsh governments. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, you stretch out your merciful hand to heal the sick and shield those who are troubled. Touch all who are burdened by want, loneliness, or illness. Bring to them and to their caregivers healing and hope, especially Jim, John, Robert, Frieda, Joe, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, you are the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Fill us with joyful hope in this new year, and guide us to have courage amid all the changes and chances of life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, you care for your children as a shepherd cares for his flock. Guide our bishop and call committee as they search for a new pastor for this congregation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, you are the hope of the saints, the light that filled their hearts, the love that never failed them. Comfort those who mourn, and in your time bring us to our eternal home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hear the hopes and prayers of our hearts, O God, and magnify our joy at the birth of your Light among us, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #296: *What Child Is This*

(All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.
Good and loving God,
we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,
who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace.
As you have blessed us with your gifts,
let them be blessing for others.
With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven,
we shout for joy at the coming of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,

we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might.
Your glo - ry fills heav'n and earth. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the one who comes in God's ho - ly name.
Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,
Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time
your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time,
you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness
and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The mystery hidden for the ages
is revealed for us in this meal.
Come, behold and receive your God.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*



O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN #295: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.
Amen.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *The First Noel* – Franklin Ashdown

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Dave Knauff

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher:

Attendance Last Week: 49

Weekly Budgeted Need: \$ 2,640.27

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 132,013.47

YTD Actual Expense: \$ 119,201.79

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Sally Foster

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher:

Attendance last year: 37

Last Week's Giving: \$ 2,180.00

Year to Date Receipts: \$139,969.44

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