THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

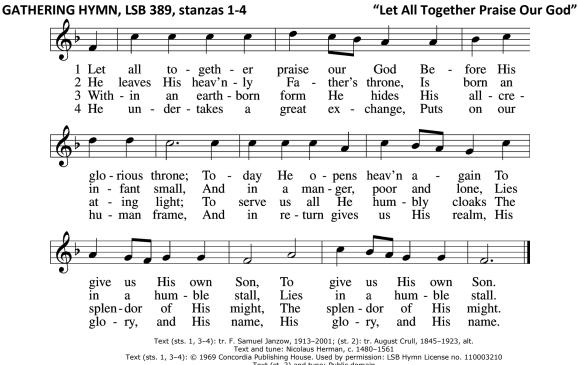
Saturday, December 30, 5:30pm Sunday, December 31, 9:00am



As We Gather

How long is a generation? Keepers of statistics suggest that a generation is between twenty and thirty years and note that at the present time there are six distinct generations living in the United States. The current generations range from our oldest citizens, known as the *Greatest Generation* through our youngest, given the group name of *Generation Z*. In the account of the presentation of our Lord in the temple at Jerusalem, we see Jesus as a baby from the youngest generation and we meet Anna the prophetess, well advanced into the most elderly generation, and Simeon, who is often portrayed as an older man. The temple is the place for all generations to experience the presence and blessing of God! The psalmist exults in praise to God: "One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts" (Psalm 145:4). As we worship, we continue that praise in this generation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING



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INVOCATION

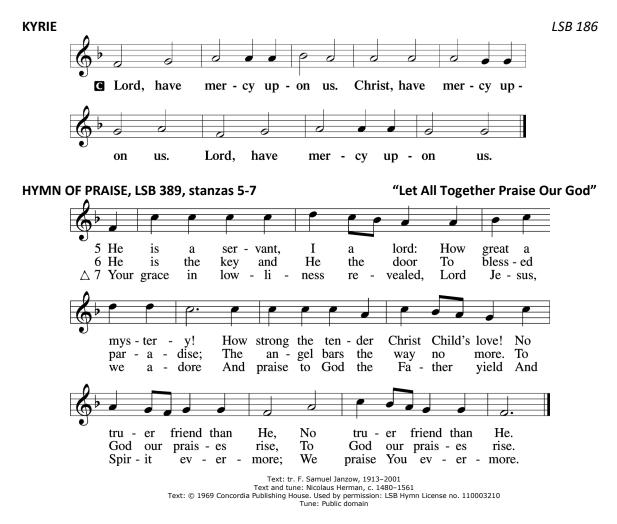
- In the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- People redeemed by the Lord, let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
- Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of having sinned in thought, in word, and in deed. So often we have left undone those things which we ought to have done and have done those things which we ought not to have done. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask for the grace and forgiveness that we know to be ours in Jesus, our Savior. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us, heavenly Father, to change what is sinful in our lives so that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.

 God has promised pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son, who has replaced slavery to sin with a priceless inheritance of freedom and joy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the
 H Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

C Amen.



- SALUTATION
- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- I Let us pray. Gracious God of endings and beginnings, we commit to Your grace and forgiveness the year now being completed and commend to Your kindness and love the year about to begin. Throughout the coming weeks and months make the presence of Your Holy Spirit known in our lives, drawing us ever closer to Jesus and uniting all generations of Your faithful people in bonds of love and care, as we continue to grow in our baptismal grace and await the joy of eternal life in Your glorious presence. This we ask for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.
- C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING, Isaiah 61:10-62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. ¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

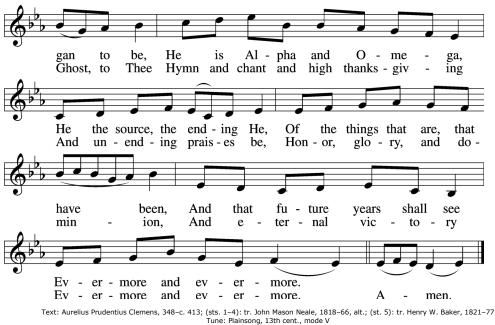
- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING, Galatians 4:4-7

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

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.





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HOLY GOSPEL, Luke 2:22-40

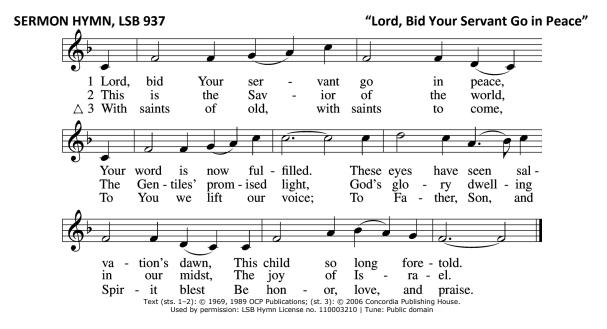
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." ³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." ³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived

with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.



SERMON

Pastor Bob Gehrke

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand

of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

This is a time that we, as a church family return a portion of the financial blessings God has given us. If you are our guests today, please do not feel obligated to participate. We have many ways to give your tithe or offering. You may place your offering in the plate when it is passed, mail it to the church, text to give by texting 84321 with any dollar amount (be sure to select "South Shore"), give online at sstwbl.org/give, or use the Church Center App from your smartphone (available for both Android and iOS). Disciples of Jesus at SST, please fill out an ivory SST Registration card and place in the offering plate.

Guests: If you would like more information regarding South Shore Trinity, please fill out a blue Guest Registration card before and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher before leaving.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal Lord God, in the fullness of time, You sent forth Your Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem us and give us the adoption as Your sons and heirs. Hear us, Father, as we call to You in His name. Give us grace to rejoice in Christ's blessed incarnation, and grant us a glad new year. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Lead Your Church, Lord, to follow the example of blessed Simeon, that all baptized Christians would embrace the Christ Child by Word and faith, and so be ready to depart whenever they are called. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P Heavenly Father, from whom all fatherhood on earth is named, bless Christian families with Your promises. Give parents diligence and delight in their work, and grant Your favor on all children, that they may grow in strength and wisdom. Bless widows, orphans and broken families also with Your mercy, and give them joy in the redemption You have won for us in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- Holy God, mighty Lord, You have given power to the nations and to those who govern for the good of their people. Bless our president, Congress, governor and all our leaders, that justice may prevail and Your people would be free to live at peace with all. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, receive our prayers for those who suffer from loneliness. Comfort them with the sure and certain knowledge that You will never forsake them. Give them family and friends within the household of faith with whom they can find loving companionship. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Blessed Lord, help the sick and suffering, especially those who desire our prayers including ______. Surround them with Your love in Christ and, according to Your gracious will, heal them. Comfort those who mourn, especially _____, and fill their hearts with the certain hope of the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

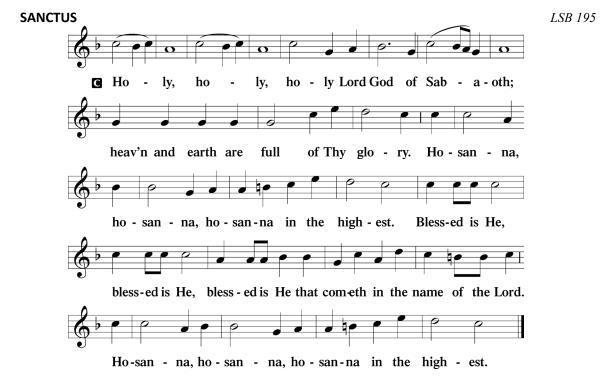
- Father of lasting peace, show Your mercy to those who receive the Lord's Supper this day, that they would behold their salvation in the very body and blood of Christ given for them and, with St. Simeon, be well-prepared to depart in peace according to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- ▶ Lord God, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **C** Amen.

PREFACE

LSB 194

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with thy spirit.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **G** We lift them up unto the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
- It is meet and right so to do.

It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, because You have called us through the waters of Holy Baptism and welcomed us to Your Table of grace. As we rejoice in the salvation won for us by our Savior, strengthen us to heed always the call to share the Gospel message in our times and days with the generations yet to come that Your praise may echo until the end of time and the start of eternity. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, forevermore praising you and saying:



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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

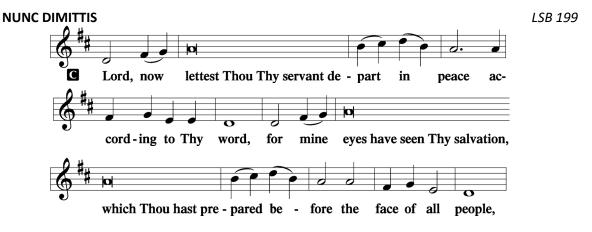
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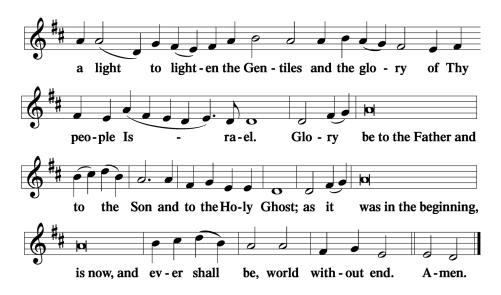
- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

LSB 367 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"





POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

▶ Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the Church. And we ask that You would help us by Your Holy Spirit that we may continue in this fellowship and do the good works that You desire us to do, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom with You and the same Spirit, be praise in all generations, forever and ever.

C Amen.

GROWING IN THE WORD

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Psalm 90:1

BENEDICTION

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- C Amen.



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NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP DECEMBER 31 5:30PM



TRINITY TIDINGS FOR THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

The Flowers at the Altar today are given to the glory of God by Jim and Nancy Haertel for the many blessings God has given them.

District President Lucas Woodford will here on January 6/7. He will preach at all 3 services and will lead the Bible class time at 9:30am. This meeting will be available via Zoom (a link will be sent via email) and as a recording. He will be sharing the options SST will have upon Pastor Gehrke's retirement.

The next **Discover SST** classes are scheduled. For more information speak to Pastor Dan.

- Tuesday, January 9, 6:00-8:00pm (childcare available) Lutheranism 101 (part 1)
- Tuesday, January 16, 6:00-8:00pm (childcare available) Lutheranism 101 (part 2)
- Saturday, January 20, 9:30am-2:00pm (lunch and childcare provided) New Disciple Luncheon

Our annual **Soup & Chili Cookoff** (with Desserts) will be on Sunday, February 4 from Noon to 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall. See the January Newsletter for more information.

Trinity Guild: No January meeting. We will carpool from SSTLC to the Winter Workshop. Signup sheet for attending the workshop and carpooling will be coming soon on the Guild bulletin board. Questions, contact Muriel at 612-709-2985. See January Newsletter article.

Sermon Series beginning January 13/14 – "Joining Jesus as a Family." See the January Newsletter for more details.

Invite Cards -- Have you ever wished you could simply hand out an information card to friends or acquaintances about our church? The Board of Outreach would like to encourage everyone to take several of the new "Invite Cards" and keep them handy for when those opportunities arise. They are on the cabinet by the office and elsewhere around the building.

SERVING THIS WEEKEND

Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Bob Gehrke Associate Pastor, Rev. Dan Bodin Acolytes: 9:00 Ariana Smith | NYE None Anna Altar: Jennifer Carlson and Sally Ackerley Coffee: Jerry and Emmy Boleen Counters: Ed and Carol Gerlach Readers: 9:00 Darrell Hardy | NYE No reader Organist/Pianist: 5:30 & 9:00 & NYE Dr. Jeff Burkart Live Stream Tech: 9:00 Jayne Kurpius | NYE Jennifer Jewell AV Tech: 5:30 Ron Wenzel | 9:00 Joel Kurpius | NYE Ken Kirchhoff Ushers: 5:30 Glenn Borkenhagen | 9:00 Ross Hoernemann | NYE Mark Molkenbur



CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

(Please include the follow people in your prayers)

Those celebrating a birthday: 1/1 - Monica Pederson, Linda Ferwerda, 1/2 - Michelle Connolly, 1/4 - Muriel Janneke, 1/5 - Kelly Dewitz, 1/6 - Matt Stohr, Hannah Butzlaff

Those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries in January: Marlene Carlson, Julie Deeg, Cathy Guerrero, Louis Hass, Linda Kunze, Jayne Kurpius, Deb Manley, Barb Peltier and Karolina Peterson (exact date unknown). 1/3 – Jim Haertel, 1/6 – Nora Greenwold

Those celebrating a wedding anniversary: 1/6 – Herb and Donna Frederick

ON THE CALENDAR

Sunday, December 31 5:30pm New Year's Eve Worship with Communion Monday, January 1 All Day Office Closed/No Preschool Tuesday, January 2 Preschool Resumes 9:30am Book Nook Circle [F8 & Library] 6:30pm Board of Fellowship/Zoom Women's AA (upstairs) 6:30-8:30pm Wednesday, January 3 9:30am Young-at-Heart Bible Study [F8 & Zoom] 9:30am Women's Bible Study [B9A] 11:30am Ladies Card Game [F8] 5:45pm Fellowship Meal 6:30-7:00pm Foundry (K-5th) Forge (6-12th) Confirmation 6:30-8:00pm No Chancel Choir in January Thursday, January 4 9:30-11:30am Women's Bible Study [upstairs] 9:30-11:30am [B9A] In Use 12:30pm Dorcas Quilters 6:00pm Vesper Bells [S] 7:00pm Adult Bible Study Saturday, January 6 9:00am Praise Team Practice 11:00-Noon Al-Anon [upstairs] Worship with Communion/Pres. Woodford 5:30pm Sunday, January 7

8:00am 9:30am 10:45am

Worship with Communion/Pres.	Woodford
Christian Education Hour/Pres. V	Voodford
Worship with Communion/Pres.	Woodford

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Yellow "Prayer Request" cards are available in the pew rack.
- Please use this Prayer Guide in the coming week to pray for the following people and situations.
- Those who are listed in italics are not disciples at SST.

God's healing: Debbie Dahl, Dick Wicklund, Eileen Spreeman, Herb Frederick, *Karen Nelson*, Danna Anderson, Margaret Ribble, Paulette Genz, *Mark Benson*, Elizabeth Iverson, Marian Meier, Tim Lundgren, *Martha Burkart*, Melody Sweet, *Wayne Leverkuhn*, Lin Carlson, Carol Gerlach, Elaine Frahm, Betty Frohrib, Grace Bodin, *Brett Swenson*, Bonnie Moyer, *Carol Borgstrom*, Sharen McKelvey, *Noah Boleen*, Celeste Gifford

God's Peace: To all people and especially to nations at war

Those with on-going health issues: *Verna Benson,* Mary Kuruvilla, Jim and Meredith Reinholdt, the children of Rick and Lin Carlson

God's comfort, peace and healing for those with cancer:

Jim Baldwin, Carol Borgstrom, Jack Frahm, Tammy Gimpl, Michelle Krug, Jill Larson, Patti Molkenbur, Bill Niebergall, Pastor Norb Streufert, Lana Albrecht, Rick and Lin Carlson, Joanne Grace, Faye Hansen, SST's Letter Carrier

Protection of our Armed Forces and their families:

Peter Gifford, Megan Lisowy, Aaron Meissen, Dan Mettling, Brodey Perron, Scott Polack, Andrew Reed, Jim Schumann, Dalton Wenzel, Dylan Wenzel, Brandon Boleen, Teddy Boleen, Wyatt Kassa

Missions and missionaries:

Rev. Dr. Fung and Kalia missionary family to SE Asia in Thailand | *Pastor Stephen Heimer and Vicar Alex Escarciga at Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, Texas* |SST Preschool, reaching our community | MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers)

Federal, State and local government and all those in positions of authority

