

The Incarnation Is Necessary

First Sunday after Christmas

December 26, 2021

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, there are activity bags for children, and the service is streamed live in the Fireside Room down the hall for small children.

Service of the Word

The readings for Christmas Day told us what God's Christmas gift is. The readings for today, the First Sunday after Christmas, answer the question, What is that gift for? What does it do? It was necessary for the Son of God to become human so that he could die—and Jesus knew it his whole life. That's good news for people confused about why Christianity matters in the world.

HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Ye Christians | #132

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you both that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and also that we have each sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge toward your infinite mercy, pleading for your grace on the basis of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us. Have mercy upon us and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. And by your Holy Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your Word, to the end that—by your grace—we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given his only-begotten Son to die for us, and on the basis of his work forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name he gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved.

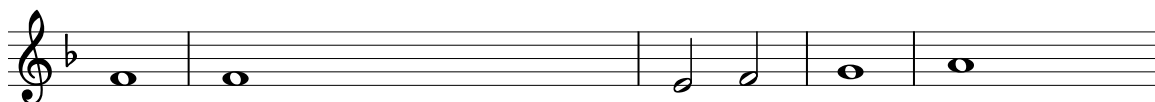
C: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.

HYMN


Glory to God in the Highest



Glory be to God on high, And on earth peace, good will toward



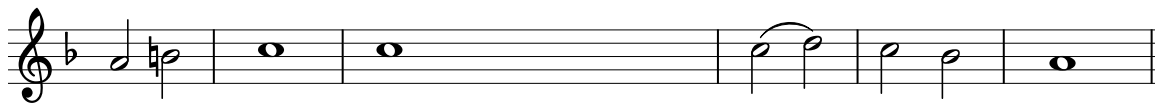
men. We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



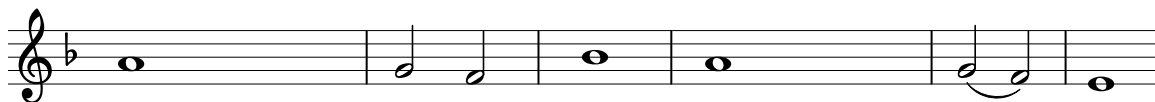
we give thanks to you, for your great glory. O Lord God, heav'n-ly



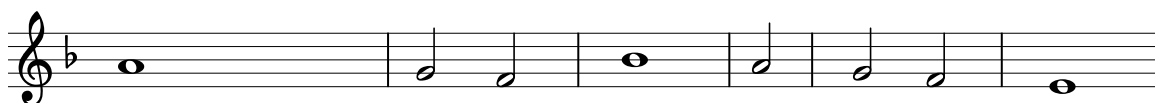
King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son,



Je-sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



you take away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



You take away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon
 us. For you only are holy. You only are the Lord.
 You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the
 glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that through Jesus we share in God's nature: Almighty and merciful God, we thank you for sending your Son to become human like us, so that we might become your children. Make us who trust in Jesus to be more and more like him. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 50:4–9

Jesus is the promised Servant of the Lord who is speaking in this passage, perfect in his obedience and trust. As he did in today's Gospel reading, he always spoke with a well-instructed tongue and set his face like flint to embrace the divine necessity of what he had been sent to do.

⁴The LORD God gave me a tongue like the learned, an instructed tongue, so I know how to sustain the weary with a word. He wakes me up morning by morning. He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the learned. ⁵The LORD God opened my ear, and I myself was not rebellious. I did not turn back. ⁶I submitted my back to those who beat me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard. I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit.

⁷The LORD God will help me, so I will not be disgraced. Therefore I have made my face hard like flint. I know that I will not be put to shame. ⁸The one who will acquit me is near! Who can accuse me? Let us take our stand. Who can pass judgment on me? Let him approach me. ⁹Look, the LORD God will help me. Who then can declare me guilty? Look, all of them will wear out like a garment. A moth will consume them.

HYMN

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice | #134

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews 2:10–18

The Son of God shared our flesh and blood, fully human in every way—which is a humiliation for the Creator. But it was necessary that he came to suffer the temptation and death that had defeated us so that he could share his family name with us and make us his brothers and sisters in glory.

¹⁰Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. ¹¹For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers.

¹²He says: I will declare your name to my brothers. Within the congregation I will sing your praise.

¹³And again: I will trust in him.

And again: Here I am and the children God has given me.

¹⁴Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood, he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil) ¹⁵and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. ¹⁶For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham's offspring. ¹⁷For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

When Sinners See Their Lost Condition | #111: v.1-4

SERMON

Luke 2:41-52

Though the people around Jesus as he grew and taught were confused about his true business on earth, the only event in the Bible from the childhood of Jesus shows that he always understood who he is and why he was born.

⁴¹Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. ⁴²When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the Festival. ⁴³When the days had ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Since they thought he was in their group, they went a day's journey. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? See, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you."

⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be taking care of my Father's business?" ⁵⁰They did not understand what he was telling them.

⁵¹He went down with them and came to Nazareth. He was always obedient to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

What is there to praise and thank God for in this passage?

How does this passage correct our thinking about God, his nature or his plans?

What do we need to believe as a result of this passage?

Is there anything we should stop or start doing as a result of this passage?

Is there anything we need to say to someone as a result of this passage?

HYMN

Create in Me



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

PRAYER

P: Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart, so that by the patience and comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and always hold secure the blessed hope of everlasting life. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of three measures. The first measure contains a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4 with a sharp sign, and a quarter note on B4. The second measure contains a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on A4. The third measure contains a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on F#4 with a sharp sign, and a quarter note on E4. The notes in the third measure are beamed together. The staff ends with a double bar line.

Announcements

Send announcements to bulletin@kog-els.org.

Publications

New on the publications shelf this week: the Nov-Dec issue of *Lutheran Sentinel*.

Altar flowers

David and Susan Nelson gave the altar flowers this week to celebrate Lily's baptismal anniversary.

Attendance last week: 294 worshiped on Sunday.

Offerings last week:

Average Needed Per Sunday: \$17,368

Received Last Week: \$13,016

Average Needed Year to Date: \$416,832

Received Year to Date: \$381,438

Calendar

Monday	6:30 pm	Worship service
Friday	6:30 pm	New Year's Eve Communion service
Sunday	8:15 & 10:45 am	Communion service
	9:30 am	social hour

Counters today	Brian & Jennifer Pederson, Claire Joubert
Counters New Year's Eve	Collin & Emily Bredeson, Gina Thomforde
Counters next Sunday	Gerry Reason, Lon Rogness
Ushers today	Bill McDowell, Kirk Guillaume, Dustin Lange
Ushers New Year's Eve	Randy Gauger, Adam Knebel, Bill Wasmund
Ushers next Sunday (8:15)	Bill McDowell, Kirk Guillaume
Ushers next Sunday (10:45)	Paul Thomforde
Video team today	Tim Guillaume
Video team New Year's Eve	
Video team next Sunday	
Altar guild for December	Alice Ringen, Barb Cummings
Altar guild for January	Kathy Reason, Anne Bechtold



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