

Proclaim the Name of Jesus

First Sunday after Christmas

January 1, 2023

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 Preparation

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Use this time in quiet preparation for worship by looking ahead at today's Bible readings and hymn texts, and in prayer.

OPENING PRAYER

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy Word. Please open our hearts by your Holy Spirit. Through the preaching of your Word teach us to repent of our sins, to believe in Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

HYMN

What Child Is This? | #145

CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Let us confess our sins to God and pray: We poor sinners confess to you, O God, not only that we have been conceived and born in sin, but also that throughout life we have often and in many ways offended you, our Lord and Maker, with our thoughts, words, and actions. You could with perfect justice reject and condemn us for all eternity. Therefore we come before you with sorrow of heart, in dread and terror of your holy justice and of everlasting death. Our sins are a grievous foe, which we should hate in every way as long as we live.

P: O merciful God, in this hour you still remind us of your fatherly goodness. On account of the promises in your Word, we flee for refuge toward your infinite mercy. We implore you, dear Father—on the basis of the work of Jesus Christ, your only-begotten Son, our Brother, who was handed over to death because of our sins and was raised to life again for our justification—forgive us all our sins through faith, which the Holy Spirit increases in our hearts to full confidence.

C: **We therefore pray you, O Lord, through your servant to declare to us the forgiveness of all our sins. We poor sinners are willing to forgive all who have offended against us. We earnestly desire to grow in true godliness. Help us, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

HYMN

Kyrie

O God the Fa - ther in heav - en, have mer-cy up-on us.

O God the Son, Re - deem-er of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.

O God the Ho-ly Ghost, true Com-fort-er, have mer-cy up-on us.

ABSOLUTION

P: Upon this your confession, by the authority of God, I declare to you the gracious forgiveness of all of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May he who has begun this good work in you carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ. Peace be with you. Amen.

HYMN

Gloria

All glo - ry be to God on high, Who hath our race be -
friend-ed! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is
end - ed; God show - eth his good will to men, And
peace shall dwell on earth a-gain; O thank him for his good - ness!

Service of the Word

We remember today that Jesus' name means "The LORD saves." He did this by fulfilling every requirement of the law so that we could be freed by the Gospel—even down to the very first shedding of blood at his circumcision.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that we proclaim the name of Jesus: Almighty and merciful God, your Son was circumcised and given the name that is above every name. May we who bear his name worship him in the freedom of the Spirit and proclaim him as Savior of the world. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Numbers 6:22–27

God instructs Aaron to bless his people by placing his name on them in a threefold blessing.

²² The Lord told Moses ²³ to speak to Aaron and to his sons and to tell them to bless the Israelites with these words:

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you.

²⁵ The LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

²⁶ The LORD look on you with favor
and give you peace.

²⁷ In this way they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:21–32

According to Jewish law, every newborn male had to be circumcised and it was tradition on this day to give the child their name. Simeon, an old man ready for death, sang this song in the temple inspired by the Holy Spirit. He could die in peace having seen the salvation of Jesus.

²¹ After eight days passed, when the child was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. ²³ (As it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male will be called holy to the Lord.”) ²⁴ And they came to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him into his arms and praised God. He said,

²⁹ Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace, according to your word,

³⁰ because my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared before the face of all people,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds | #155

SERMON

Galatians 3:23–29

Paul was combating divisions among the Galatians. The great unifier was the fact that God has adopted all believers into his family—giving them his name.

²³ But before this faith came, we were held in custody under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith was revealed. ²⁴ So the law was our chaperone until Christ, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a chaperone.

²⁶ In fact, you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ Indeed, as many of you as were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. ²⁸ There is not Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, for you are all one and the same in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants and heirs according to the promise.

HYMN

Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love | #156

STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

C: **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 is seated at the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again

with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall 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 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.

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

We give offerings out of thanks for all that God, in Jesus, has done for us. King of Grace uses these offerings to support the preaching and teaching of God's Word here and around the world. Contribute at www.kingofgracelutheran.com/give or in the offering plates.

Service of the Sacrament

The members of King of Grace invite members of other ELS or WELS congregations to commune with us. We ask everyone else to please visit with our pastors before our next communion service.

P: Dear friends in Christ! In order that we may receive this holy Sacrament worthily, it is good that we consider what we believe. From the words of Christ: "This is my body; this is my blood," we believe that Jesus Christ is himself present with his body and blood, as the words declare. From Christ's words "For the forgiveness of sins," we believe that Jesus Christ gives us his body and blood to actually deliver to us the forgiveness of all of our sins. And finally, we do as Christ commands when he says, "Take, eat; drink of it, all of you," and "Do this in remembrance of me."

We also unite in giving thanks to Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for so great a gift, and then love one another with a pure heart, and thus with the whole Christian Church have comfort and joy in Christ our Lord. To this end, may God the Father grant us his grace; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.**

CONSECRATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND RECEPTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

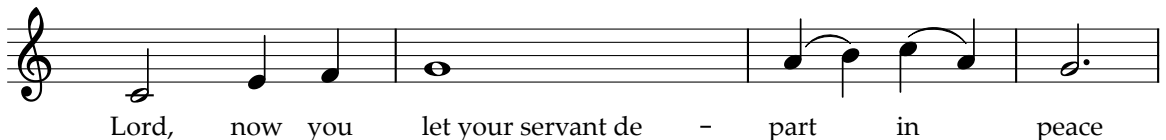
DISTRIBUTION HYMN

O God Our Help in Ages Past | #160

THANKSGIVING HYMN

Nunc Dimittis

This hymn quotes Simeon's words in the temple when he held the baby Jesus (Luke 2:29–32). Having received Jesus' body and blood, we too have seen our salvation and are therefore unafraid of living and unafraid of dying.



ac - cord-ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation,
 which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry
 of your peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, for - ev - er - more. A - men.

PRAYER

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you, Lord God Almighty, that you have refreshed us with these your life-giving gifts. We ask you—out of your mercy—to strengthen us through them in faith toward you and in eager love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

*This blessing from the Old Testament (Numbers 6:24–26) is the only benediction in the Bible written by God himself. It is more than a prayer *for* blessing. It *gives* a blessing in God's name, giving positive assurance of the grace and peace of God to all who receive it in faith.*

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: O Lord, we give you our heartfelt thanks that you have taught us what you want us to believe and to do. Help us, O God, by your Holy Spirit, on the basis of Jesus' work, to keep your Word in pure hearts, so that by that means we may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.



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