



*a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.*

## **DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**Sunday, December 27, 2020**  
The First Sunday of Christmas

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## The First Sunday of Christmas

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

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*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.*

### December 27: John, Apostle and Evangelist

*John, the son of Zebedee, was a fisherman and one of the Twelve. John, his brother James, and Peter were the three who witnessed the light of the transfiguration. John and James once made known their desire to hold positions of power in the kingdom of God. Jesus' response showed them that service to others was the sign of God's reign in the world. Tradition has attributed authorship of the gospel and the three epistles bearing his name to the apostle John. John is a saint for Christmas through his proclamation that the Word became flesh and lived among us, that the light of God shines in the darkness, and that we are called to love one another as Christ has loved us.*

### PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

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Fantasia on "Greensleeves", Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)  
arr. Stanley Roper

*Ralph Vaughan Williams was an English composer. His fantasy on "Greensleeves" is one of his most performed orchestral pieces, and is heard here in an organ arrangement by Stanley Roper. The tune itself is an English folk song that is associated most strongly in this country with the text "What Child is This?", which was written by William Chatterton Dix in 1865.*



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

Let us pray.

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.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10--62:3

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*To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<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.**

## PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 148

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



- <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;  
praise God | in the heights.
- <sup>2</sup>**Praise the Lord, | all you angels;  
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**
- <sup>3</sup>Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you | shining stars.
- <sup>4</sup>**Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,  
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**
- <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name | of the Lord,  
who commanded, and they | were created,
- <sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not | pass away. REFRAIN**
- <sup>7</sup>Praise the Lord | from the earth,  
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
- <sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, | snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**
- <sup>9</sup>mountains | and all hills,  
fruit trees | and all cedars;
- <sup>10</sup>**wild beasts | and all cattle,  
creeping things and | flying birds;**
- <sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers | of the world;
- <sup>12</sup>**young | men and maidens,  
old and | young together. REFRAIN**
- <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name | of the Lord,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
- <sup>14</sup>**The Lord has raised up strength for the people  
and praise for all | faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. |  
Hallelujah! REFRAIN**

## SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

*Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.*

A reading from Galatians.

<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 ACCLAMATION

ELW #169

*The assembly sings the Alleluia before and after the gospel verse.*



Cantor: Let the peace of Christ rule | in your hearts,\*  
and let the word of Christ dwell | in you richly. (Colossians 3:15, 16)

## GOSPEL: John 1:1-14, 16-17

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And 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. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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

## **SERMON**

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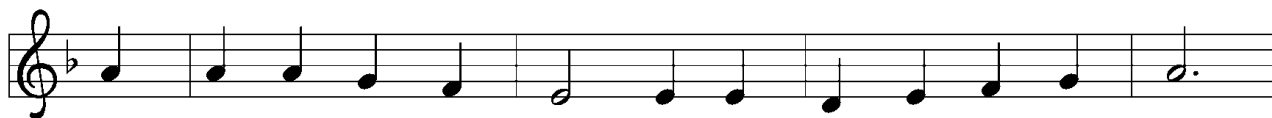
*Pastor Steve Springer*



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908



## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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*After each petition: "Lord in your mercy," the assembly responds **"Hear our prayer."***

Let us pray to Gd for the church, the world, and those in need.

We pray for the church:

O Gd,

guide the church by your word and spirit, that we walk as one of yours, with Xp, in service to your will. Direct our steps and enter our lives that we go forth in peace, and having seen your salvation and touched by your goodness that we rejoice with heart and soul and voice.

Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world:

O Gd,

we continue to pray for the world - the world at once a garden of beauty, but yet again a stage for unsightly factions and quarrels that expand to aggression and retaliation. Turn people, we pray, from the promotion of such unrest to thoughtful planting and nurturing of seeds of justice and peace, that righteousness and actions worthy of praise may spring up among and before all nations and joy come to the world.

Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need:

O Gd,

be a living, responding presence to those who turn to you in days of stress, in times of frailty, decline and disease. Hide not your face from them, but come to them, abide with them as Lord and Emmanuel, giving embrace, direction and refuge as they trust in your light and salvation.

We think especially of people we know, those we name. We remember also those not known to us but known to their family, and known to you.

Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Finally O Gd, as we pray, we remember those who have died. We give thanks for the grace they have received, and for what their life has meant for us. May we, in communion with them and all the saints, repeat a sounding joy, clothed in a salvation and abiding in the peace that only your coming can give.

Lord in your mercy,

**hear out prayer.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## MEDITATION

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

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*In Dulci Jubilo*, BuxWV 197  
Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

*In Dulci Jubilo is a traditional Christmas carol with origins in the middle ages, now known most commonly as "Good Christian Friends Rejoice", which is our sending hymn today. Many composers have set the tune or woven it into larger compositions. Today, our organ music features a setting by the great mid-Baroque composer Dieterich Buxtehude.*

## COMMISSION

Pastor Stephen Springer

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## BLESSING

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The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.  
**Amen.**



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!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866  
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## EPILOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

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*Noël Suisse*  
Louis Daquin (1694-1772)

*Louis-Claude Daquin was a French Baroque composer of Jewish ancestry. He was well known during his life for his keyboard virtuosity, and held posts at both Notre Dame and the Chappelle Royale. Noël Suisse is perhaps his most famous work. It is a joyful and dance-like setting of a traditional Swiss Christmas tune.*

## DISMISSAL

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Go in peace. Your light has come.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Assisting Minister: John Hoelter  
Lector: Chris Alexander  
Cantor: John Hoelter