

The child grew and became strong,
filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him.

Luke 2:40, NRSV





Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

January 5, 2025

Second Sunday after Christmas

Welcome

Of the Father’s Love Begotten

LSB 384

- 1 Of the Father’s love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.
- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face
Evermore and evermore.
- 3 This is he whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

- 4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore him;
Angel hosts, his praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.
- 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

Stand

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Our heavenly Father chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world.
- C** Yet we choose to walk our own paths and desires.
- P** He predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ.
- C** We choose rebellion, isolation, and stubborn independence.
- P** He has lavished grace upon us and forgiven our trespasses.
- C** We have hurt our brothers and sisters and held tightly to the hurts they have brought upon us.
- P** In him we have obtained an inheritance,
- C** Yet we squander our gifts and abuse our stewardship.

- P** For all this,
C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.

- P** The apostle Paul tells us that God chose us with this purpose in mind: to make us holy and blameless before him. Because we are baptized into Christ Jesus we have redemption through his blood and the promise of forgiveness, salvation, and the Holy Spirit who guarantees our eternal inheritance. Baptized and redeemed children of God, in the stead and by the command of Jesus I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Live out your lives in Christ confident that you are serving his purposes!
- C** **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**
P We share Christ's peace with one another.

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

Prayer of the Day

- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

First Reading

Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

The Lord said to Moses, ²“Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.”

³ Then Moses said to the people, “Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast.

¹¹ “After the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your ancestors, ¹² you are to give over to the Lord the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the Lord. ¹³ Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

¹⁴ “In days to come, when your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ say to him, ‘With a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹⁵ When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed the firstborn of both people and animals in Egypt. This is why I sacrifice to the Lord the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-11

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with

the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

C Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:21-40

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived. ²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

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

³³ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

In His Temple Now Behold Him

LSB 519 (tune 367)

- 1 **In his temple now behold him,
 See the long-expected Lord;
Ancient prophets had foretold him,
 God has now fulfilled his word.
Now to praise him, his redeemèd
 Shall break forth with one accord.**

- 2 **In the arms of her who bore him,
 Virgin pure, behold him lie
While his aged saints adore him
 Ere in perfect faith they die.
Alleluia, alleluia!
 Lo, the incarnate God Most High!**

- 3 **Jesus, by your presentation,**

When they blessed you, weak and poor,
Make us see your great salvation,
Seal us with your promise sure;
And present us in your glory
To your Father, cleansed and pure.

- 4 Prince and author of salvation
Be your boundless love our theme!
Jesus, praise to you be given
By the world you did redeem,
With the Father and the Spirit
God of majesty supreme!

Homily

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 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 catholic 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.

Prayers of the Church

Preface

spoken

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise

Sanctus

LSB 161

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have
mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have

mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

We believe that as we partake of the bread and wine in Holy Communion, Jesus the Messiah is feeding us with his own true body and blood. In eating his body and drinking his blood we receive the promise that our sins are forgiven, and that we will therefore live eternally with God. We also believe that this eating and drinking is a confession of our faith.

If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and if you share our understanding of Christ's Real Presence in this meal, you are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood for your benefit.

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

LSB 386

- 1** **Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
 Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
 Thou my Savior art!
 Thou my Savior art!**

- 2** **Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to thee.
 Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
 Through thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
 Draw me unto thee!
 Draw me unto thee!**

- 3** **Now through his Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
 Death was reigning o'er us
Through sin and vanity
 Till he opened for us
A bright eternity.**

May we praise him there!
May we praise him there!

- 4 Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all his saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there!

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the Undeified,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found his favor.
- 2 Angels sang about his birth,
Wise Men sought and found him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.
- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undeified
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise his name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!

What Child Is This

LSB 370

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Let All Together Praise Our God

LSB 389

- 1 Let all together praise our God
Before his glorious throne;
Today he opens heav'n again
To give us his own Son,
To give us his own Son.
- 2 He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,

Lies in a humble stall.

- 3 Within an earthborn form he hides
His all-creating light;
To serve us all he humbly cloaks
The splendor of his might,
The splendor of his might.
- 4 He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us his realm,
His glory, and his name,
His glory, and his name.
- 5 He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than he,
No truer friend than he.
- 6 He is the key and he the door
To blessèd paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.
- 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise you evermore.

Dismissal

Benediction

LSB 166

- P** 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.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the king of angels:

Refrain

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

- 2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: *Refrain*
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Announcements

Sending

- P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- G** Thanks be to God!

Serving in worship today

January 5, 2025

Pastor

Jason Neel

Acolyte

Evan Baker

Usher

Art Hayden

Elders

Phil Marquardt

Carl Schwanbeck

Reader

Renee Chambard

In our prayers

Celebrating Birthdays: Bridget Smith 1/6, Anna Brynteson 1/7, Oliver Welle 1/7, Gabriel Jauch 1/8, Chris Schoenbauer 1/11, and Marlys Lindeman 1/11.

Celebrating Baptisms: Barbara Bassing 1/7, Jacob Brynteson 1/11, Jacob Mathiason 1/11, and Sara Neel 1/11.

Praying for: Terry Elhardt, Randy and Cheryl Herschman, Lee Bouley, Arlene and Dave Martti.

This Week at a Glance

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
Wednesday	10:30 a.m.	Women's Ministry Planning Meeting.
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Board Meeting
	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study

Notes of Information.

Upcoming Book Study: In February, Pastor Jason will be hosting a 3-week study of C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce*, a fictional account of Lewis finding himself in Hell boarding a bus bound for Heaven. This is the starting point for an extraordinary meditation upon good and evil, grace and judgement.

Copies of the book are available in the church office. The cost for the book is \$8. You may choose either Monday nights (Feb. 3rd, 10th, and 17th) from 6 pm to 7 pm or Wednesday mornings (Feb. 5th, 12th, and 19th) from 11 am to 12pm. Session 1 will cover chapters 1-6 (pages 1-50), Session 2 will cover chapters 7-10 (pages 51-96), and Session 3 will cover chapters 11-14 (pages 97-146).

Confirmation Reminder: Confirmation will be held this week on Wednesday from 6 pm to 8 pm. Dinner will be provided by the youth board.

Spring Rummage Sale: The youth will be holding a rummage sale along with their plant sale this spring. As you are cleaning items out of your homes, please consider donating items in good condition to this cause. You can bring items to church on the third Sunday of each month and the youth will take care of moving your items from your car. We are not accepting TV's, monitors or furniture pieces. If you have questions, please contact Laura Marquardt or Jeff Fey.

2025 calendars: The 2025 youth calendars are available for purchase in the Narthex or church office. The calendars are \$10.

Evangelism Book Study: Mark your calendars for our upcoming book study of *Meaningful Outreach an Essential Guide for Churches* by Mark A. Wood. Sessions will be held on Saturday, January 25, Saturday, February 8, and Saturday, March 1 at 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Copies are available in the church office for \$12

Stewardship Note: "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

NACE: North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf is currently in need of boxed sides, including stuffing, pasta and potatoes. They are no longer taking summer clothing items but are looking for new socks and underwear in all sizes and gently used fall/winter children's clothing. Thank you for your donations. For more information, reach out to Toni Peterson.

Average Weekly Offering	\$6689
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	\$6973

Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

- 14 - 7 = ___ Father
- 10 + 9 = ___ heavenly
- 9 + 9 = ___ the
- 12 + 12 = ___ blessing
- 2 - 1 = ___ Praise
- 7 + 7 = ___ has
- 11 + 11 = ___ every
- 13 + 13 = ___ Christ
- 8 + 8 = ___ us
- 10 + 10 = ___ realms
- 8 + 9 = ___ in
- 5 + 5 = ___ Lord
- 10 + 11 = ___ with

- 10 + 15 = ___ in
- 10 - 5 = ___ God
- 6 - 3 = ___ to
- 12 - 6 = ___ and
- 6 + 6 = ___ Christ
- 18 - 9 = ___ our
- 22 - 11 = ___ Jesus
- 1 + 1 = ___ be
- 7 + 6 = ___ who
- 2 + 2 = ___ the
- 10 + 5 = ___ blessed
- 4 + 4 = ___ of
- 10 + 13 = ___ spiritual



1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV



SPiRiT of CHRiST
Lutheran Church

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Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another, reaching out to all people,
proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.

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