

## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Remembering Mercy  
December 28 & 29, 2019

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### AS WE GATHER

Stories of God's dealings with His people can never be sanitized or idealized. The Lord finds His people to be stubborn, rebellious, and forgetful. In the history of Israel is the pattern for God's mercy to the Church and the reason why, when we gather, we recount God's mighty acts of deliverance. The Lord works to forgive us, restore us, and remind us of what He has done to save us. Now more than ever, we are gravely tempted to doubt, despair, and be disillusioned. We see a world filled with even greater tragedy and sorrow than Herod visited upon the firstborn sons of Bethlehem. But even in death, they testify to the Lord's gracious will and His power to rescue, redeem, and comfort His people with His grace in Christ, our Savior.

### WELCOME

**"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his son,  
born of woman, born under the law,  
to redeem those who were under the law,  
so that we might receive adoption as sons." (Galatians 4:4-5 ESV)**

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### HYMN #385

#### "From East to West"

From east to west, from shore to shore  
Let ev'ry heart awake and sing  
The holy child whom Mary bore,  
The Christ, the ever-lasting king.

Behold, the world's creator wears  
The form and fashion of a slave;  
Our very flesh our maker shares,  
His fallen creatures all to save.

For this how wondrously He wrought!  
A maiden, in her lowly place,  
Became, in ways beyond all thought,  
The chosen vessel of His grace.

And while the angels in the sky  
Sang praise above the silent field,  
To shepherds poor the Lord Most High,  
The one great Shepherd, was revealed.

All glory for this blessed morn  
To God the Father ever be;  
All praise to You, O Virgin-born,  
And Holy Ghost eternally.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: When the fullness of time had come,

People: **God sent forth His Son,**

Pastor: born of woman, born under the law,

People: **to redeem those who were under the law.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

People: **I confess that I have sinned against you this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask for your forgiveness. Deliver me in your mercy and restore me by your grace that I amend my sinful life. Bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE #380 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

### **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, you refreshed the memory of your people of old by having them recount the mighty acts by which you delivered them. Give us your wisdom and your Spirit today that we remember your mercy, be brought to repentance for our sins, and rejoice in the forgiveness you have given to us through the gift of your one and only Son in flesh; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

### **10:30 BAPTISM SONG #593 "See This Wonder in the Making"**

See this wonder in the making: God Himself this child is taking  
As a lamb safe in His keeping, His to be, awake or sleeping.

Miracle each time it happens As the door to heaven opens  
And the Father beams, "Beloved, Heir of gifts a king would covet!"

Far more tender than a mother, Far more caring than a father,  
God, into Your arms we place them,  
With Your love and peace embrace them.

Here we bring a child of nature; Home we take a newborn creature,  
Now God's precious son or daughter, Born again by Word and water.

**10:30 BAPTISM** of Laura Ibukunoluwa Priscilla Deborah Shoup Page 268

### **✠ WORD ✠**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 63:7-14* (I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord.) I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that

he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Galatians 4:4-7* (When the fullness of time came, God sent His Son.)

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

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 2:13-23* (Herod murders the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem and they become the first martyrs for the sake of the Lord.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in

Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON HYMN "Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word.  
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;  
but there is room and welcome there for me, and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find Him as they said: sweet newborn babe, how frail!  
And in a manger bed: a still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled?  
With pounding heart I stare: a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned its way into my heart –  
unasked, unforced, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me,  
and not alone for me?

**SERMON "All the Fullness in Christ" Galatians 4:4-7**

(Rise)

### 5:00 & 8:00 APOSTLES' CREED

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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will 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.

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In your mercy, Lord, hear the prayers of your people and grant to us all things needful and beneficial, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*Brief silence*

Pastor: For the Church, the people of His promise, to whom He has revealed His Son as Savior and Redeemer, that we may enjoy the gift of good and faithful ministers, and that the Lord may prosper the Word and bring to fruition the proclamation of His Word in every place and time, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the wisdom to trust the Lord's timing, knowing that He sent Jesus in the fullness of time, that He has promised to answer our prayers in His time, and trusting that our Lord brings all things to fulfillment at the end of time, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the extension of Christ's kingdom throughout the world, that many would hear and believe, and especially for Laura Ibukunoluwa Priscilla Deborah Shoup who is baptized into Christ this weekend, that she along with parents and godparents may grow in faith and life, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the nation and our leaders, that the Lord may grant them wisdom in their pursuit of justice, and for the cause of peace in the world and relief for those who suffer oppression, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the protection of life from its natural beginning to its natural end, for the special protection of the unborn, for mothers with child, for the safekeeping of mother and child during childbirth, and for the comfort of God's grace to those who suffer miscarriage or the death of a child, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the renewal of our fellowship as the Body of Christ, for families, husbands and wives, for those desiring to be married, for the single who desire marriage, and for the lonely who yearn to know the comfort and joy of family, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who give aid and care to the sick, for the sick and those who suffer, that the Lord may grant them healing in accordance with His will, especially for Sydney, Diane, Dorothy, Marlene, June, John, Arlene, Jerry, Judi, Nancy, Robert, Jonathan, Russ, Steve, Sharon, Bette, Nathan, Shirley, Mary, Cindy, Bill, Katie, Dolores, Herb, Sarah, Marge, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah, that they would have comfort and hope in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the grieving who suffer the loss of those they love, especially for those who mourn infants and children; for those in their last days, that the Lord may give them peace; and for the day when finally we shall be reunited with those who died in Christ and be raised with them to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For our communion this day upon the body and blood of Christ, that we may receive this Sacrament with faith and be strengthened by it, and that the Lord may soon bring unity of faith and doctrine so that all divisions may cease, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grateful hearts, that we may receive the Lord's gifts with joy and use them wisely and for His glory; and for grace, that our sacrificial offerings and worship may be pleasing in the Lord's sight, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the Holy Spirit to increase our joy and sustain us in this joy and thanksgiving throughout the days of this Christmas season, and that such joy would be reflected in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Hear us, O Lord, for we are the people of your promise and the children whom you have redeemed through the salvation accomplished through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**5:00 & 8:00 THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**People: 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.**

**✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI

Tune: LSB #361 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Lord Jesus, holy Lamb of God, You take our sins away;  
Lord Jesus, holy Lamb of God, You take our sins away.  
We who are gathered here now Ask peace for all the earth;  
Grant Christmas peace to one and all, And heav'nly joy and mirth.

(Be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION** Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

### HYMN #384 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

### HYMN #364 "Away in a Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky – looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

### HYMN #376 "Once in Royal David's City"

Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.

For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned,  
All in white, His praise will sound!

## COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, for the many and various ways you have made known your mercy through the ages, but most especially that now you have made your saving will and purpose known through your Son. As you have so richly fed us with His own body and blood in this Sacrament, keep us, we pray, in faith and direct our humble obedience to your Word, that we be found faithful when He returns in glory to complete all that He has begun in us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

### BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### BENEDICTION

Pastor: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen.**

### HYMN #389 "Let All Together Praise Our God"

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.

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.

Within an earth-born form He hides His all creating light;  
To serve us all He humbly cloaks The splendor of His might,  
The splendor of His might.

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.

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.

He is the key and He the door To blessed paradise;  
The angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise,  
To God our praise rise.

Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore;  
We praise You evermore.

Preacher & Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Director of Parish Music

Pastor Harold Bender

Marc Stefanic, Jane Adams, Debra Nier

Keira Hutchins, Ashton Poritz, Cooper Nier

Michelle Prince

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**New Years Eve Worship  
December 31, 2019 at 6:00pm**