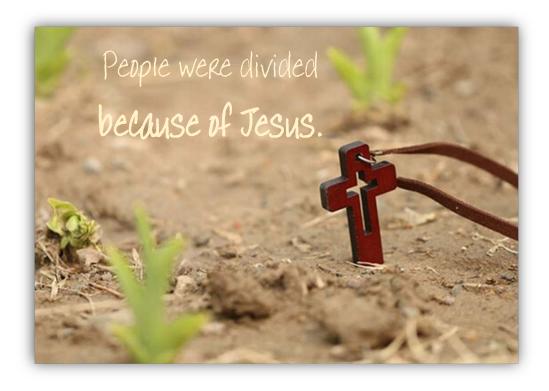
2nd Sunday after Christmas

January 3, 2021



Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church
(Wisconsin Synod)

1332 Arrowhead Rd.

Grafton, Wisconsin 53024

Pastor Mark C. Wagner

VERSICLE: "All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God."

Psalm 98:3

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Guests: Welcome to all who are visiting with us today!

<u>WORSHIP NOTES</u>: Welcome in the name of the newborn King and Savior, Jesus Christ! On this second Sunday after Christmas, we find that the comfort and joy of Christmas continue to fill our hearts. How come so many people then and now miss the point of Christmas? The real Jesus reveals and gives himself only through his Word. He who put his splendor on display in a cradle, chose to reveal himself in the lowest of places to make his love available to all. Some may never understand (believe) who he is.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christian Worship, page 26

THE OPENING HYMN

"See in Yonder Manger Low" (p.11)

CW, # 58:1-3

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CW, p. 26

- **P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- **P:** God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.
- C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

- **P:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



P: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

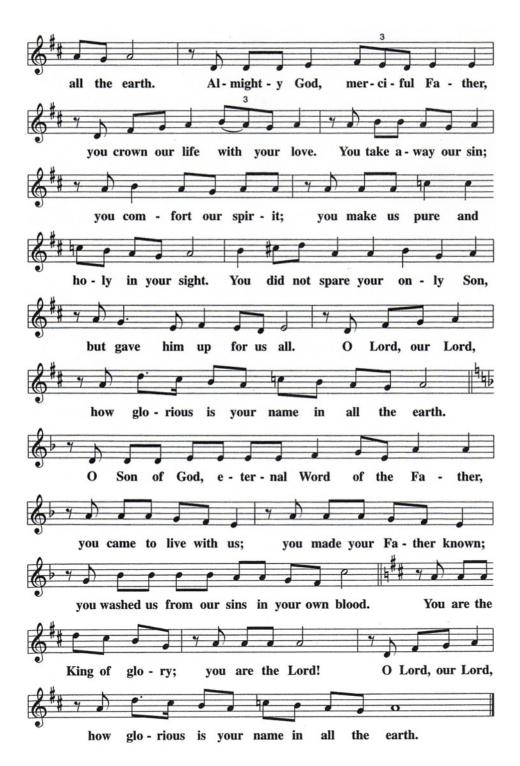


P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.



THE OLD TESTAMENT READING MICAH 5:2-5A

One of the chief reasons why so many people reject the truth about the real Jesus is that he is hidden in such lowliness. They want a splendid looking Jesus, noble and heroic in appearance, who will bring outward peace and prosperity, and make me always happy. But the real Jesus comes from some no-account back water town in a country despised and defeated. When he comes, he comes as a shepherd of the flock whose full glory will not be evident until he comes the second time. For now his glory is real but hidden; it is hidden under the reality that he is gathering his people by his Word. As miraculously as he gathers them, so miraculously he preserves them in faith until faith is transformed into sight at his second coming. Your recognition of him and your holding to him is a miracle too. With the passing of each Christmas that miracle is more impressive than before. Still, after so often wandering, still he shepherds me by his Word and preserves me in his fold!

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.

THE RESPONSE "See in Yonder Manger Low" (p.11) CW, # 58:4

THE EPISTLE HEBREWS 2:10-18

It is the scandal of the cross that ties both of the miracles of Christmas together. It is on the cross that he suffers his ultimate shame and humiliation. It is in the Word that we see it all, that we see the Eternal God in the flesh tempted, suffering, dying for those who are tempted, suffering, dying. It is by the message of the cross that he declares himself as Savior in the congregation and then creates for himself brothers who trust in him by means of that declaration. We are knit together in the fellowship of the cross.

In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

THE GOSPEL JOHN 7:40-43

We noted last Sunday that there are really two miracles in Christmas: that God has become man in the lowliness of the manger, and that he has made it known to me, even to me. Why not to everyone else? Because so many are more interested in their own opinions than in Jesus' revealed Word. In John 7 those who did not compare Jesus with what the Bible promised concerning him missed out on who he really was; they knew a little of that Word but were not married to it. The real Jesus, the Savior and God-man, does not give himself apart from his Word. Therefore as we begin a new year of getting to know him; let us listen ever more attentively to his Word, so that he may hold us close to himself through it.

On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet." Others said, "He is the Christ." Still others asked, "How can the Christ come from Galilee? Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.



THE SERMON HYMN

"Christ the Lord to Us Is Born"

(p.12)

CW, #59

THE SERMON

John 7:40-43

"Assume that His Unexpected Arrival will Sow Seeds of Dissension"

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,

of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE OFFERINGS

Online or in the entry to the gym. Guests please do not feel any obligation to participate in the offering (though you are always welcome to do so). Find and fill out a Guest Card as you leave, and drop it in with the offerings so we can connect with you – thanks!

SERVICE CONTINUES

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

THE SACRAMENT

P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. When the time had fully come, he sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



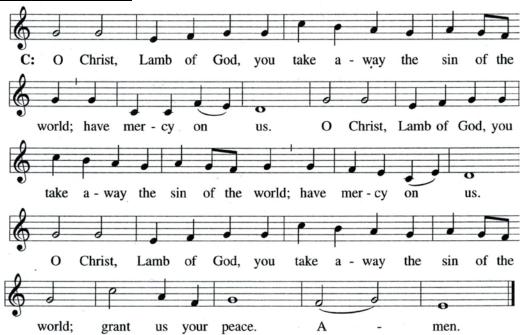
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

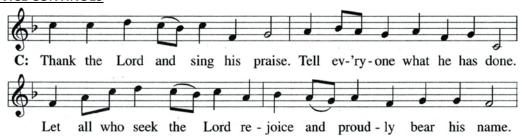


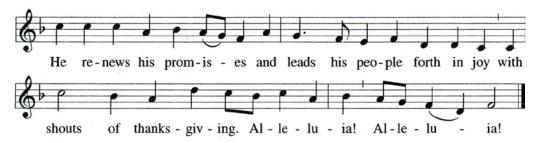
THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"The Old Year Now Has Passed Away" (p.13)

CW, #71

SERVICE CONTINUES





P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



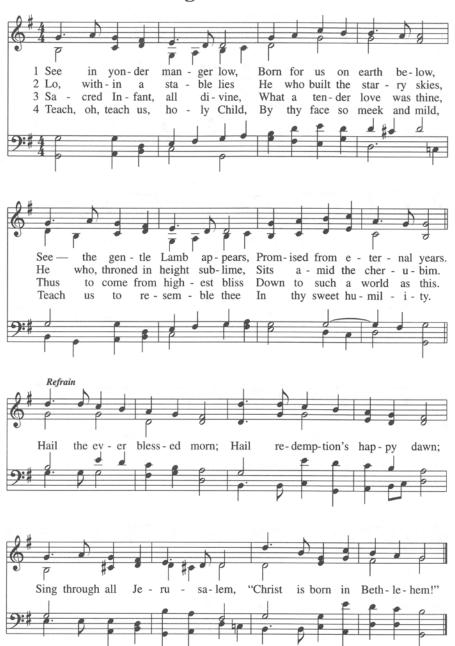
THE CLOSING HYMN

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

CW, # 38:13-15

- (13) Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, Within my heart, made clean and new, A quite chamber kept for you.
 - (14) My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep. I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- (15) Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has given! While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

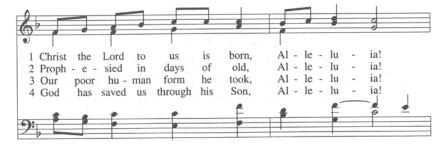
SILENT PRAYER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

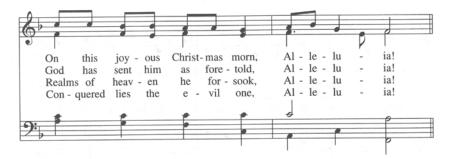


Text: Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt. Tune: John Goss, 1800-80 HUMILITY 77 77 with Refrain

59

Christ the Lord to Us Is Born









Text: Bohemian carol, 15th century, abr.; tr. Vincent Pisek, 1859-1930, alt. Tune: Bohemian carol, 15th century

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Text © 1941 Concordia Publishing House





- 5 Wherein as Christians we may live
 Or die in peace that you can give,
 To rise again when you will come
 And enter your eternal home.
- There shall we thank you and adore
 With all the angels evermore.
 Lord Jesus Christ, increase our faith
 To praise your name through life and death.

Intro: What a disappointment Jesus must have been to the Jews of his day! Notice how normal it is for people to get caught up in the expectations of their time and culture. But even the best opinion polls cannot shape our faith nor cause us to lose our confidence.

Assume that His Unexpected Arrival will Sow Seeds of Dissension

1. There are Many Different Opinions concerning Christ.

- 1.1 When family and friends gather, opinions heat up the place.
- 1.2 Three opinions were cited; none of them got it right.
- 1.3 Oh, how a little bit of knowledge can be a dangerous thing.

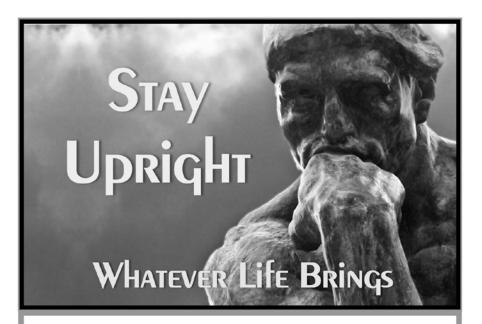
App: Regardless of where the blinders originate (prone to social media influence, ignorant of the Bible, scared to be identified with him), people still need the truth about who Jesus is and why he came.

2. There is only One (Divine) Opinion that Matters.

- 2.1 God's opinion of Christ starts and centers on me and my sinfulness.
- 2.2 Then, as Jesus finishes his work on earth, God's opinion of me changes.
- 2.3 The truth of sin and grace still creates controversy.

App: Christmas is such a remarkable event as we ponder two miracles. First, the angels sang of his coming and then Simeon broadcast the response – my eyes have seen your salvation!

Conclusion: This is the best way to start out the new year... knowing that in Christ we have the best of God's love. Despite all the dissension in the air around us, we can have a faith that will not be shaken – which is not just my opinion. It is a fact!



How do some believers hold onto the Lord's peace when all around them there is chaos? What will guard our hearts and minds? The Apostle Paul says that we can continue to rejoice because the Lord is near. Based on six "power words" from the in Philippians 4:8-9, the most prolific New Testament writer tells us how to think godly thoughts. Each lesson contains Bible context, personal reflection and practical ideas to incorporate into your life. This study group will gather between services, keep social distancing and offer something to think about and work through each week. Taught by Pastor Wagner.

Adult Bible Study

Fellowship Hall, between services in January & February

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true...

whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

THIS WEEK AT OUR SAVIOR

Worship Service w/Communion Sunday (1/3) 8:00 AM 10:30 AM Worship Service w/Communion Wednesday 8:30 AM Children's Chapel 4:00 PM **Public School Confirmation Class** 7:00 PM Thursday **Contemporary Worship Service** Sunday (1/10) 8:00 AM **Contemporary Worship Service** 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM **Contemporary Worship Service**

Next Week's Readings

First Lesson Ruth 4:13-17
Second Lesson Ephesians 3:2-12
Gospel Matthew 2:1-12
Psalm Psalm 72

LiveStream on Youtube Channel at 10:30am every Sunday This service is also recorded for review after livestream. Link on our website (see below).

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICE

"ASK YOURSELF WHOSE OPINION REALLY MATTERS"

Service Theme

PASTOR

Mark Wagner

ORGANIST

Ann Peterman

Vocalists

Katie Koffman Matt Berger

HYMNS 58:1-3, 58:4, 59, 71,

38:13-15

FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

SECOND LESSON

Hebrew 2:10-18

GOSPEL LESSON

John 7:40-43

THE SERMON

John 7:40-43

OUR SAVIOR EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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