

† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †
First Sunday After Christmas
December 27, 2020

PRELUDE

Es ist ein Ros

John Leavitt

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our 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.

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE (*Sung to "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*)

"Glory be to God on high!" This is now our joyful cry.
Peace to all who live on earth, grace and favor for new birth.
You we praise and glorify, worship You, O Lord most high.
Gracious Father, heav'nly King, to Your name alone we sing:
Praise the glory of Your name, now and evermore the same!

Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, sole-begotten, holy One,
born on earth from realms on high, born true man for us to die,
Lamb of God, You take away this world's sin: Grant peace we pray.
With the Spirit, You alone are most high, O God the Son,
and the Father, God above. Praise we now Your glorious love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son You more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever find our lives in the One who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

61 ¹⁰I 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. ¹¹For 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. **62** ¹For 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. ²The 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. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL CANTICLE

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.

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.

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.

GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²²When 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 shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." ³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

Rev. Scott Geminn

THE CREED (*Sung to "Away in a Manger"*)

In God we believe: the Creator whose pow'r
in mercy has brought us for worship this hour.
He graciously grants us our years and our days
and blesses with kindness our work and our ways.

In Jesus, the Savior, our hope is secured.
True God and true man once the cross He endured
to grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin.
with hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.

God's Spirit at work in our lives we confess;
with power and truth the church now He does bless.
As saints, God's forgiven, one day we shall then
be living in glory forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Joining our voices with the songs of the faithful, let us pray for the church,
the world, and all who are in need.

P All creation praises You, O God. Enliven Your church in all the places where
it has been planted. Fill us with wisdom and teach us to proclaim Your
forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P All creation is holy to You, O God. Protect hibernating animals and frozen
lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Hear
us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P The nations are upheld by Your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and
praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and
integrity. Send Your spirit of discernment upon those making decisions for
the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Send the spirit of Your Son into our hearts, O God. As we approach the
dawn of a new year, reveal Your power to heal and to save. We pray for all
who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit, especially those on our prayer
line and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE). Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P You adopt us into Your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and
joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who
work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health
care. Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Let Your servants depart in peace, O God, according to Your word. For all
Your saints, we give You thanks. Comfort the bereaved with the light of
Your salvation. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P God of grace and mercy, we lift these and all our prayers to You, in the name of our Savior, Jesus, who taught us to pray:

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.

CLOSING HYMN

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
there He lay the undefiled, 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.

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.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefiled 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!

BENEDICTION

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.

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Gentle Mary

Wilbur Held

* * * * *

Special thanks to our additional participant in today's service:

Lector Sue Hartwell

**Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School
172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708
914-337-0207 + www.VLC-NY.ORG**