

Readings, Prayers, Psalms and Hymns
To Study and Share with those You Love.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

CONCORDIA

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
725 Truxton Drive, Kingsport, TN.
concordiakingsport/facebook 10:30am



**For the sake of
the holy church,
we serve with
divine energy**

Hymn of Invocation **A Great and Mighty Wonder** 383

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

INTROIT PSALM 98

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. **Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.** The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. **has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him 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.

PSALM 111

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. **Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.** Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. **He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.** He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. **He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.** The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; **they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.** He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name! **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! Glory to the Father and to the + Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever, Amen.** He sent redemption to His people.

APPOINTED READINGS

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Galatians 4:4–7

Luke 2:22–40

**The Time Has Fully Come for Redemption and Purification through Jesus Christ,
Our Lord**

- “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,” born of the woman, “to redeem those who were under the law” (Gal. 4:4–5). Therefore, “according to the Law of Moses,” Mary and Joseph “brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord” (Luke 2:22). There He was received and taken up into the arms of Simeon, who was righteous and devout, “waiting for the consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25).
- Simeon praised God and blessed the parents by confessing the cross for which this child was appointed. “At that very hour,” old and faithful Anna, who had watched, prayed and worshiped in the temple for so long, came up and “began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:38).
- The Lord causes “righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations” (Is. 61:11). We also “greatly rejoice in the LORD,” because this child has clothed us “with the garments of salvation,” covered us “with the robe of righteousness” and called us “by a new name” (Is. 61:10; 62:2).

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SERMON NOTES

+ First Sunday after Christmas +
31 December 2023 **Holy Spirit Resolutions** Isaiah 62:1-2

For Zion's sake I will not remain silent. For Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until its righteousness shines like the dawn and its salvation burns brightly like a torch. The nations will see your righteousness. All kings will see your glory. You will be given a new name that the Lord will announce.

When we are moved by the Holy Spirit to both speak and serve for the sake of His holy church, nations will see the glory and righteousness God has given those who receive salvation in this holy Child.

1. For the sake of the holy church, we are bold to speak

1. Jesus and the Apostles speak truth in love
2. The Spirit of God gives us words and courage

2. For the sake of the holy church, we serve with divine energy

1. Be steadfast, always abounding in the work of the Lord
2. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

3. Nations will see the glory and righteousness God gives

1. Not the glory and righteousness of this world passing away
2. A crown of beauty and a royal diadem in the hand of God

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
31 DECEMBER 2023

Eternal Lord God, in the fullness of time, You sent forth Your Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem us and give us the adoption as Your sons and heirs. Hear us, Father, as we call to You in His name. Give us grace to rejoice in Christ's blessed incarnation, and grant us a glad new year. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lead Your Church, Lord, to follow the example of blessed Simeon, that all baptized Christians would embrace the Christ Child by Word and faith, and so be ready to depart whenever they are called. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, from whom all fatherhood on earth is named, bless Christian families with Your promises. Give parents diligence and delight in their work, and grant Your favor on all children, that they may grow in strength and wisdom. Bless widows, orphans and broken families also with Your mercy, and give them joy in the redemption You have won for us in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, mighty Lord, You have given power to the nations and to those who govern for the good of their people. Bless our president, Congress, governor and all our leaders, that justice may prevail and Your people would be free to live at peace with all. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, receive our prayers for those who suffer from loneliness. Comfort them with the sure and certain knowledge that You will never forsake them. Give them family and friends within the household of faith with whom they can find loving companionship. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Blessed Lord, help the sick and suffering, especially those who desire our prayers [*including* _____]. Surround them with Your love in Christ and, according to Your gracious will, heal them. Comfort those who mourn, [*especially* _____], and fill their hearts with the certain hope of the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father of lasting peace, show Your mercy to those who receive the Lord's Supper this day, that they would behold their salvation in the very body and blood of Christ given for them and, with St. Simeon, be well-prepared to depart in peace according to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.