

1st Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 2024



Liturgy: WS p. 22; Carol Card



**YOUR THRONE SHALL BE  
ESTABLISHED FOREVER.**

A large, colorful stained glass window design serves as the background for the central text. The design features a prominent crown at the top, a sunburst in the middle, and a purple arch at the bottom, all set against a dark background with various colored panes in shades of yellow, orange, blue, and green.

**ST. JOHN'S**

Lutheran Church & School

100 W. Market St.

P.O. Box 98

Okabena, MN 56161

Sam Rodebaugh, Pastor

(414) 534 - 7279

sam.rodebaugh@gmail.com

www.okabenalutheran.org

✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #78

"Hail the Day So Rich in Cheer"

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

**Confession of Our Sins**

*We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

**P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C** If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

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

**C** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

**Absolution from Our God**

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)*

**P** Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**Response**

TLH #98:3

**C** ♪ O ye heights of heaven, adore Him;

Angel hosts, His praises sing; Powers, dominions, bow before Him  
And extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Every voice in concert ring Evermore and evermore.

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*A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.*

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- P** Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.
- C** **Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.**
- P** The LORD reigns; He is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; He has put on strength as His belt.
- C** **Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.**
- P** The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring.
- C** **Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty!**
- P** Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.
- C** **Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.**

### **Collect Prayer of the Day**

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*A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.*

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



### **2 Samuel 7:1-16**

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup> the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." <sup>3</sup> And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." <sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup> "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I

have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup> In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup> Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup> from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>12</sup> When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, <sup>15</sup> but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"



### **Galatians 4:4-7**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born

under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**I BELIEVE...**

**in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**

**Hymn: TLH #91:1-5, 9**

*"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"*

✠ **The Sermon** ✠



**Luke 2:22-35**

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they

brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory

to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

### **Redefining our Christmas Joy**

- I. Christmas has given us purpose to live
- II. Christmas has given us peace to die

### **The Offertory**

WS p. 16

**☩ ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.**

### **✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠**

**Hymn: TLH #139**

*"In His Temple Now Behold Him"*

### **✠ The General Prayer ✠**

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Sung to the Tune of "Away in a Manger"*

**☩ ♪ Our Father in heaven, All praise to Your name!  
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same  
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone:  
Oh, hear us and bless us From heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for Provide us each day;  
As we forgive others, Our sins take away;  
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;  
From evil deliver Your children most dear,**

**For yours is the kingdom; O'er all things You reign.  
And Yours is the power; All things You maintain.  
To You be the glory, Resounding again  
From all of creation, Forever! Amen.**

## ✠ Order of Holy Communion ✠

**The Preface**      *To the tune of "Good Christian Men Rejoice"*

**P** ♪ *Oh, may the good Lord be with you.*

**C** ♪ ***And may the Lord be with you too.***

**P** ♪ *Lift your hearts to Him in praise.*

**C** ♪ ***To the Lord our hearts we raise.***

**P** ♪ *Let us offer praises true.*

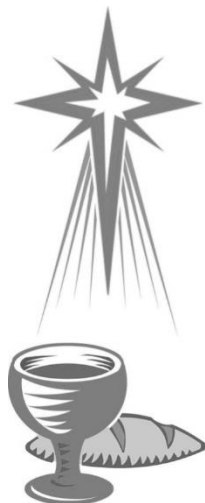
**C** ♪ ***It is fitting so to do:  
Gratefully we sing  
To the Lord, our King!***

**P** It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should, at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

**The Sanctus**      *To the tune of "As With Gladness Men of Old"*

**C** ♪ ***Holy, holy, holy Lord  
God of hosts, by all adored:  
Heav'n and earth cannot contain  
All the glory of Your name!  
With the heavenly host we sing  
Highest praises to our King:***

***Hail! Hosanna! Endless fame  
Be to Him who, in God's name,  
Now draws nigh with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hail! Hosanna! Praises be  
To the Lord eternally!***



## **The Words of Institution**

*Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed 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! **G Amen.**

### **Communion Today is for Members Only Please**

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

### **✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠**

**Thanksgiving**      *To the tune of "Angels from the Realms..."*

**G** *♩ Thank the Lord, His praises voicing*

*For His promised faithfulness!*

*All who seek the Lord, rejoicing*

*Tell His love, His name confess,*

*For He leads us, with thanksgiving*

*In the paths of righteousness.*

*At Your Word, Lord, let Your servant*

*Go in peace, for with my eyes*

*I have seen Your bright salvation,*

*Israel's Light, begin to rise*

*As the Glory of the nations*

*Leading us to Paradise!*



**The Benediction**

Numbers 6:24-26

*The blessing given by God for His people.*

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

**C Amen!**

**Hymn: WS #714**     *“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heav’nly Light”*



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**L O R D**  
now lettest Thou Thy servant  
depart in *peace,*  
according to Thy Word.

<b>Ushers</b>	12/29	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	1/5	Kendall B, Larry B.
	1/12	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
<b>Cleaning</b>		This Week – Zuehlke, Winters, Appel (wk. 3)
		Up Next – Kazemba, Thaemlitz

**Thank you!** From Lana, Ruth, and Pastor—thank you for your generous gifts to us this Christmas season. The gifts of money and of various foods have all been greatly appreciated. Thank you also for your continual prayers and support. We all consider it a wonderful blessing to serve this congregation.

**New Year's Eve** Communion service will be held this Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 pm.

**Election Meeting Summary** – At last Sunday's Election Meeting, the voters approved Pastor Rodebaugh becoming a voting member; communion assistants were appointed: Allen Jensen, Christian Kazemba, and Nathan Voit; and Pastor's housing value for income tax purposes was set. The following were elected or re-elected to serve as church officers: Brandt Wendland to the Board of Elders; Duane Voit to the Board of Trustees; Phil Strike as Chairman; Christian Kazemba as Secretary; Nathan Albrecht as Treasurer; Steve Winters to the Board of Education; Joseph Albrecht, Lance Baumann, and Don Lueck to the Finance Board; and Joe Liepold to the Cemetery Board. Installation for these men will be during the church service next Sunday, January 5.

**Offering Envelopes** – Offering envelopes have been placed in your church mailboxes. If you prefer not to use the envelopes, please return your box to the back table. Thanks!

**CLC Call News** – Pastor Del Maas of Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND and St. Paul's Lutheran, Ponsford, MN has received the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Pastor George Dumann of Salem Lutheran Church, Eagle Lake, MN has received the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

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### **Devotion: The Christmas Miracle**

Have you experienced a Christmas miracle? Many people look for something out of the ordinary, something miraculous to set apart Christmas from every other time of the year.

Movies portray people sacrificing for others, angels intervening in everyday life, and expressions of generosity and good will coming from unexpected sources. Expectations build for great and inspirational things.

It's not all fiction. There have been some amazing "miracles" at Christmastime. History records the Christmas truce of 1914 when German and allied troops entrenched against each other put down their weapons, exchanged gifts, and sang carols. Maybe you'll receive your own little "miracle" this year!

But if all a Christmas miracle means is some temporary surprise blessing, we're missing the point. The real Christmas miracle is something so out of the ordinary and so far beyond human expectation that only God Himself could bring it about. "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor. 2:9). We could imagine that God might send His angels to earth, but who would ever dare to dream that God Himself, the Maker of heaven and earth, would even consider entering His creation, especially when humankind by nature wants nothing to do with Him?

Realistically, why would God care about what happens to you and me when we are so small and insignificant in the big picture? Yet He did care. He cared so much about every human being that He became one of us. "*But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons*" (Gal. 4:4-5).

The Son of God became man to do in our behalf what we could never hope to do for ourselves. He came to be holy that we might be counted as righteous before the Father. He came to assume the blame for all our many faults and failings. The real Christmas miracle is that the Baby in the manger is the Son of God Himself who purely out of divine love came to give Himself for us that we might be called children of God and heirs of heaven.

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

December 30, 2024 – January 4, 2025

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*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*

-Psalm 119:105

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**Mon Luke 2:22-32** Jesus has been born under the law of Moses, and His parents soon take Him to the temple to fulfill the rites of purification and presentation. The Spirit uses this opportunity to bless Simeon and those who hear him.

**Tues Hebrews 3:1-6** Jesus deserves greater glory than Moses, just as the builder deserves greater glory than the house. Moses was faithful as "servant in God's house," but Jesus is faithful as "Son over God's house."

**Wed Luke 4:16-21** Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah's time, a wonderful time of good news, spiritual freedom, and recovery, the year of the Lord's favor (v19). With Jesus that time has come, also in 2025 (v21)!

**Thurs Isaiah 12:1-6** As we journey forth into another calendar year, we look back and thank God for the forgiveness that brings salvation and the wondrous things that He has done for the human race.

**Fri Psalm 2:1-6** While it may seem fearful when the nations rage, the Lord, our God, has no fear of them. He has installed His King on Mount Zion in spite of all opposition!

**Sat Psalm 2:7-12** The Son of God towers above all human opposition, and the mighty ones of this world would do well to honor Him. "How blessed are all who take refuge in Him" (v12)!