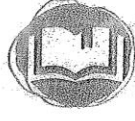


# The First Sunday After Christmas

Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> 2024 9:30am



Share



Read



Talk



Pray



Bless

**Preparation For Worship:** Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! *Psalm 50:1*

**Opening Song**            **Angels from the Realms of Glory/Emmanuel**

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship; worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night;  
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:  
Come and worship, come and worship; worship Christ, the newborn King.

Emmanuel Emanuel  
You are the God Who saves us  
Worthy of all our praises  
Emmanuel Emanuel  
Come have Your way among us  
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Come have Your way among us  
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Come and worship – worship Christ the newborn King  
God is with us even now – His love is here

Come and worship – worship Christ the newborn King  
God is with us even now – His love is here  
His love is here

Emmanuel Emanuel  
You are the God Who saves us  
Worthy of all our praises  
Emmanuel Emanuel  
Come have Your way among us  
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Come have Your way among us  
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Emmanuel Emanuel  
Emmanuel Emanuel

## Invocation

Pastor: We gather today in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: *(John 1:1-4)*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of all. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**People: The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made him known.

**People: God is good!**

Pastor: All the time!

**People: All the time.**

Pastor: God is good!

*(Romans 3:19-26)*

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in God's sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

**People: But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation or sacrifice & intercession by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in God's divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. It was to show God's righteousness at the present time, so that God might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

**Thank you Jesus.**

**Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

**Forgive me for my sins, I pray. (Reflection for confession)**

Pastor: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called servant of Jesus our Christ, and by His authority, I announce God's grace to all of you, and the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and give His Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all.

**People: Amen**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Daily Text

Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at Your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

*Psalm 84:3*

Jesus said, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

*Matthew 8:20*

Let us pray:

**People: Jesus, my Lord, You gave up Your home in heaven's glory to become a humble servant. Thank You for sacrificing Your life to save sinners like me. Forgive me for avoiding inconvenience or self-denial in serving You. I invite You to dwell within my heart. Speak through me. Love through me. Bless others through me. Amen.**

### **Scripture Lessons** *Read*

First Lesson

1 Samuel 2:18-20

<sup>18</sup> Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy clothed with a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord give you children by this woman for the petition she asked of the Lord." So then they would return to their home.

The Psalm

Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! <sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! <sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! <sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and they were created. <sup>6</sup> And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away. <sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, <sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word! <sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! <sup>10</sup> Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds! <sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! <sup>12</sup> Young men and maidens together, old men and children! <sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven. <sup>14</sup> He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the Lord!

## Second Lesson

Colossians 3:12-17

<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Reader:** Please rise for the reading of the Gospel. God has given us Good News.

**People:** **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. You have the words of eternal life.**

*Psalm 119:105, John 6:68*

## Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:41-52

<sup>41</sup> Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup> And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup> but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup> and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup> And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup> And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**Pastor:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

## Nicene Creed

**People:** **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; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

**Sermon Song**

**Messiah**

Long awaited precious promise  
Son of God and Son of Man  
Heaven's glory in a manger  
Has come to us in Bethlehem oh

Messiah - Messiah  
A baby born to save us all  
Messiah - Messiah  
On our knees we fall

All we long for all we needed  
Shining in a child's eyes  
Hope forever death defeated  
Because of this one only holy night

Messiah - Messiah  
A baby born to save us all  
Messiah - Messiah  
On our knees we fall

O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord

Long awaited precious promise  
Coming back again

Messiah - Messiah  
A baby born to save us all  
Messiah - Messiah  
On our knees we fall  
On our knees we fall

**Sermon/Watchword**

*Talk --- New, Knew, Next*

Pr Knoll

Let Them Praise The Name Of The Lord For His Name Alone Is Exalted;  
His Glory Is Above Earth And Heaven

## Offering Song

### O Little Town Of Bethlehem

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy  
Pray to the blessed Child  
Where misery cries out to Thee  
Son of the mother mild  
Where charity stands watching  
And faith hods wide the door  
The dark night wakes  
The glory breaks  
And Christmas comes once more

## Prayers of the Church *Pray*

*The congregation is invited to join in prayers that include whole Church, the nation, those in need, the parish, additional petitions and special concerns.*

**Pastor:** Let's join together to pray with Jesus for all that He loves right here, and to the ends of the earth. Father, our Father in heaven, You are the present active, Creator, and Redeemer of our heart, soul, mind and body.

**People:** **Thank You Lord, that in You we are made a part of Your great salvation of all that You have created. You have made us Your redeemed children. We join today with all those throughout the world who follow You, and pray that Your kingdom would come, and Your will would be done among us as it is in heaven.**

**Pastor:** Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude with these words...*

**Pastor:** You are our God, and we are Your people... Thank You that You hear our prayers, and work in all things for the good of those who love You. To You be all glory, honor, and praise.

**People:** **Amen.**

## Preface, Proper Preface and Sanctus

**Pastor:** The Lord be with You.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh You have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of Your glory; that, beholding the God made visible; we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**People<sup>(sung)</sup> Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

### **Words Of Institution**

Pastor: In the night in which He was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take and eat, this is My body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." Again after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of Me."

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Pastor: Lord, remembering Your love and Your life we pray as You taught us to pray:

**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**

### **Distribution Of Holy Communion**

*All who sincerely believe in the real presence of Christ in the Holy Communion – that the cup of blessing is the Communion of the blood of Christ and the bread is the Communion of the body of Christ, and sincerely believing that in receiving Him we have the forgiveness of our sins, salvation, and strength for the Christian life, come – partake of the Lord's Supper.*

Communion Anthem

How Many Kings

### **Nunc Dimittis**

Pastor: Now Lord, let your servants depart in peace, according to your Word. For our eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and will be, world without end. Amen.

**Benediction** *Bless*

Pastor: Now, may the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May He make His face shine on you, and be gracious unto you.  
May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you His peace.

People:(Sung) **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**Blessing:** Child of God, the Holy Spirit abides among us, do not fear.

Pastor: Our worship continues,

People: **our service begins!**

**Closing Song Ding Dong Merrily On High**

Ding dong merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing  
Ding dong verily the sky is riv'n with angels singing  
Gloria hosanna in excelsis - Gloria hosanna in excelsis

E'en so here below let steeple bells be swungen  
And io io io by prist and people sungen  
Gloria hosanna in excelsis - Gloria hosanna in excelsis

Pray you dutifully prime your matin chime ye ringers  
May you beautifully rhyme your eve time song ye singers  
Gloria hosanna in excelsis - Gloria hosanna in excelsis

**SHARING OF PEACE AS WE GO IN GOD'S PEACE**

**Welcome To Worship At Zion.** We are pleased to have you join us. *If you are a visitor* please check the shelf outside the office for our newsletter and brochure.

**Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God.

**The 2025 Altar Flower Chart** is up in the hallway. You may sign up for one or two vases. The cost per vase is \$22.50 per vase or \$45.00 for both vases. Please indicate whether it is in honor or memory of an individual or special event.

**The Mission of the Month for December** is blankets for Church World Services. Use the Mission of the Month envelopes to support this mission.

**The January Newsletter** is available on the tables across from the Chapel and Lounge, on the shelf outside the church office and also on the desk in the library. *Please remember: We no longer have a way to find out if you have moved. Call the church office with new addresses and/or phone numbers.*

**Bible Studies/Small Groups**

Monday 1:00pm Bible Study

Wednesday 6:00pm G.I.F.T.

**Worship at Zion**

Wednesday 7:00pm Worship

Saturday 5:00pm Chapel

Sunday 8:00am Worship

9:30am G.I.F.T. Worship

11:30am Swahili-English Worship

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH** A Charter Member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

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