

# “My Own Eyes Have Seen Salvation”



**Worship Bulletin: Mount Calvary Lutheran Church**

**Dec. 26 (5:30 PM) and Dec. 27 (8:45AM) 2020**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: We gather in the name of our baptism, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

P: Gracious God,

**A: in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in † Jesus' name. **A: Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE: "Joy to the World "



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin, and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## **GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**A: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Almighty God, you created us with a wonderful dignity and even more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share in the divine life of he who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, one God, now and forever, with you and the Holy Spirit.

**A: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: ISAIAH 61:10--62:3**

*To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.*

<sup>10</sup>I 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. <sup>11</sup>For 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.

<sup>62:1</sup>For 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. <sup>2</sup>The 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. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

## **PSALM 148**

P: Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

**A: Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

P: Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

**A: Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

P: Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

**A: who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

P: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

**A: fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

P: mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

**A: wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

P: sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

**A: young men and maidens, old and young together.**

P: Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**A: The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

### **SECOND READING: GALATIANS 4:4-7**

*Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.*

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, 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 child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

P: Alleluia!

**A: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

P: Alleluia!

### **GOSPEL: LUKE 2:22-40**

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated 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; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided 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, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which 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 the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then 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 <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>There 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, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At 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.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

## **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

“Simeon’s Song”

## **SERMON**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

"O Holy Night"

as interpreted by Dan Gresh

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn  
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!

O night divine, O night when Christ was born  
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming  
Here come the Wise Men from Orient land  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger  
In all our trials born to be our friend  
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger  
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend  
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother  
And in His name, all oppression shall cease  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
Let all within us Praise His Holy name  
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim  
His power and glory evermore proclaim

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

P: Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

**A: Your mercy is great.**

P: All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Hear us, O God.

**A: 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 legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

**A: Your mercy is great.**

P: Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness (especially). Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God.

**A: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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.

**A: Your mercy is great.**

P: Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. For (John, apostle and evangelist, and) all your saints, we give you thanks. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

**A: Your mercy is great.**

P: Loving God, in this Christmas season we celebrate Jesus' birth among us. Give us the wisdom to elect the new Bishop that you, Lord, have chosen, that we may also celebrate that new Bishop in our Synod. Be with us as we listen for your guidance. Hear us, O God.

**A: Your mercy is great.**

P: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**A: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A: And also with you.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**All: 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.**

## **SENDING**

"What Child is This" by Brad Paisley

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

## **BLESSING**

P: Grace from God's own heart, peace from the ✝ Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever.

**A: Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

**A: Thanks be to God.**