



**January 3, 2021**  
**2nd Sunday after Christmas**

Why do so many people then and now miss the point of Christmas? The real Jesus reveals and gives himself only through his Word.



Our Mission is to nurture each other in God's Word and spread the Good News of Christ to all.

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep And dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by.  
 While mor - tals sleep, The an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts To hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 Cast out our sin And en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, But in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad ti - dings tell;

The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
 And prais - es sing To God the King And peace to all the earth.  
 Where meek souls will Re - ceive him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.  
 Oh, come to us, A - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

65

*STAND*

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

**Micah 5:2-5a (NIV84)**

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”<sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.<sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.<sup>5</sup> And he will be their peace.

### PSALM 148

*read responsively by the pastor and congregation*

Praise the LORD from the heavens,\*  
**praise him in the heights above.**

Praise him, all his angels,\*  
**praise him, all his heavenly hosts.**

Praise him, sun and moon,\*  
**praise him, all you shining stars.**

Praise the LORD from the earth,\*  
**lightning and hail, stormy winds that do his bidding,**

you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,\*  
**wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,**

kings of the earth and all rulers on earth,\*  
**young men and maidens, old men and children.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,\*  
**for his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

**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 forever. Amen.**

## SECOND LESSON

**Hebrews 2:10-18 (NIV84)**

In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.<sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.<sup>12</sup> He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises.”<sup>13</sup> And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.”<sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.<sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants.<sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.<sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia.  
(Psalm 98:3b)

*STAND*

## GOSPEL

**John 7:40-43 (NIV84)**

On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.”<sup>41</sup> Others said, “He is the Christ.” Still others asked, “How can the Christ come from Galilee?”<sup>42</sup> Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David’s family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?”<sup>43</sup> Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ.**

*BE SEATED*

## SERMON

**Get to Know Jesus This Year**

**John 7:40-43**

*STAND*

## APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

*BE SEATED*

## OFFERING

## GOOD NEWS FOR KIDS

### HYMN

### What Child Is This?

67

1 What child is this who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox - en now are  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to

B Em G D Bm

sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet With an - thems sweet While  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tians, fear; For sin - ners here The  
 own him. The King of kings Sal - va - tion brings; Let

Em B Em Bm G

shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the

D Bm Em Am B

Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing.  
 pierce him through; The cross he'll bear for me, for you.  
 song on high; The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

Bm G D Bm Em B Em

Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the Son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the Son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.  
 Tune: English ballad, 16th century

GREENSLEEVES  
 87 87 68 67

STAND

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

**C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

**C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

**C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**

*(Special prayers and intercessions may follow.)*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*(Silent prayer.)*

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

**C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

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## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

M: Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.  
Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and  
bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be  
gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN    From Heaven Above to Hearth I Come    38 (v 11-15)**

11 Instead of soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough  
On which as King, so rich and great, To be enthroned in royal state.

12 And so it pleases you to see This simple truth revealed to me:  
That all the world's wealth, honor, might Are weak and worthless in your sight.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled  
Within my heart, made clean and new, A quiet chamber kept for you.

14 My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradle song:

15 Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto us his Son has given!  
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.  
Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

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# *Announcements*

## **In Our Prayers**

The Lord is eager to hear the prayers of thanks and petitions for help from his people. Please keep these members and families in your prayers. Contact Pastor to add someone to this list.

Ashley Covell - expecting in May  
Ruby Butler, Roma Gould, and Judy  
Solem - shut-ins

## **Church Library Book Delivery**

The church library materials are now available to be delivered to your door. If you would like a book or DVD, contact Pastor or the church office. There are many book choices such as devotions, Martin Luther, books of the Bible, Christian fiction and children's books.

## **Building Fund Update**

\$10,190 donated as of 12/20/2020 out of  
\$55,000 Goal

The money will be used for church window replacement in classrooms and offices.

## **Prepare for Next Sunday**

For a simple devotional reading plan, review the reading for this week on Monday - Wednesday. Then read the Scripture for next Sunday on Thursday - Saturday. The Word for next Sunday:  
*Isaiah 49:1-6, Acts 16:25-34, Mark 1:4-11*

## THIS WEEK AT LINCOLN HEIGHTS

January 3 - 10

Sunday	8:00 am	Worship - Livestream
	8:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Study
	8:45 am	Homeless Meal Delivery
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Worship
	1:30 pm	Kunama Worship
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Catechism
Saturday	8:45 am	Homeless Meal Preparation
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship - Livestream
	8:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
	8:45 am	Homeless Meal Delivery
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Worship
	12:00 pm	Nuer Worship
	1:30 pm	Kunama Worship

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