

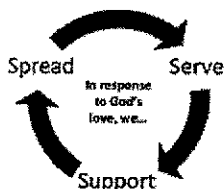
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MISSION STATEMENT:

*In response to God's love for us, we **SERVE** God,
SUPPORT Christian fellowship,
And **SPREAD** the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people.*

Volume 77

January 3, 2021

No. 01

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

+ Service of Holy Communion +

9:00 AM

AS WE GATHER – *The end of a calendar year and the beginning of a new set of months brings a special opportunity to look at our lives. What has been most memorable in our lives in the past weeks and months? How might our priorities change in the next months? The Readings in today's service are not often heard because the calendar does not always bring two Sundays after Christmas. Wisdom is waiting to be found by each of us here in this place today as we hear God's Word and seek His kingdom in this New Year of grace. God's wisdom is here to bless us each time we gather for worship!*

PRESERVICE MUSIC

"Once in Royal David's City"

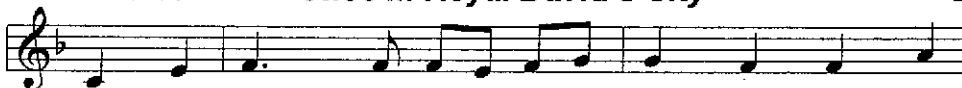
WELCOME

♯[Means please stand; ♯Means please be seated]

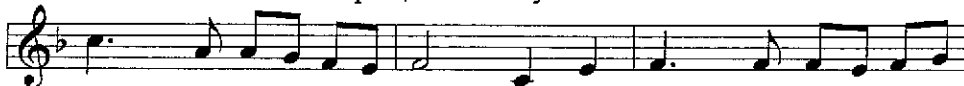
♯OPENING HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

LSB 376



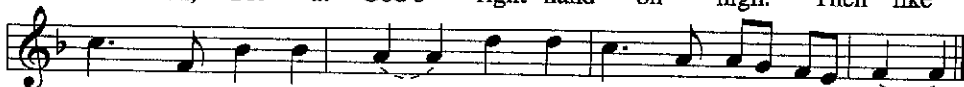
1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
 heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.
 stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Hebrews 8:10–12; Psalm 122:1

- P** *In the name of the Father and of the \div Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
- C** **Amen.**
- P** *“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord:*
- C** **I will put My laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**
- P** *And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.*
- C** **For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”**
- P** *I was glad when they said to me,*
- C** **“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

- P** *Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious and heavenly Father.*
- C** **Eternal God, we confess that by nature we are sinful people. We have transgressed Your Law in many ways, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not always been wise in our thinking and our speaking and our actions. Our motives and thoughts have not always been pure. We deserve Your punishment now and for eternity. O God, in Your mercy forgive our sin and restore us to a full and joyful relationship with You, through the merits of Jesus, our Lord. Direct all that we do by Your Holy Spirit that in the year now beginning we joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your Commandments as Your redeemed people.**
- P** *In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \div Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.*
- C** **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

INTROIT

Psalm 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon: John 1:14

P *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,*

G **and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Women: Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

Men: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.

Women: But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love.

Men: Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

All: 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.

P *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,*

G **and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *The Lord be with you.*

G **And also with you.**

P *Let us pray.*

All: Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Kings 3:4–15

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

A *This is the Word of the Lord.*

G **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:3–14

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

A *This is the Word of the Lord.*

G **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA VERSE

Luke 2:40

All: Alleluia. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:40–52

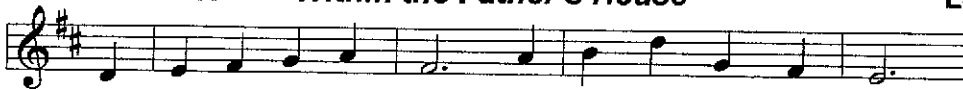
P *The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.*

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

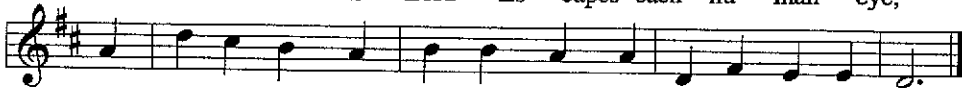
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

P *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**



1 With-in the Fa-ther's house The Son has found His home,
 2 The doc-tors of the Law Gaze on the won-drous child
 3 Yet not to them is giv'n The might-y truth to know,
 4 The se-cret of the Lord Es-capes each hu-man eye,



And to His tem-ple sud-den-ly The Lord of life has come.
 And mar-vel at His gra-cious words Of wis-dom un-de-filed.
 To lift the earth-ly veil that hides In-car-nate God be-low.
 And faith-ful pon-d'ring hearts a-wait The full e-piph-a-ny.

5. Lord, visit Thou our souls ♪ 6. Till we behold Thy face
 And teach us by Thy grace And know as we are known
 Each dim revealing of Thyself Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
 With loving awe to trace... Coequal Three in One. Amen.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

"IT'S OUR DESTINY"

Ephesians 1:3-6

- I. When the Bible talks about predestination, it's easy to get confused and maybe a little scared.
- II. But the Bible talks about predestination to comfort us, to assure us of our eternal destiny.

♪ NICENE CREED

C I believe in One God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in One Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made Man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray for the Church, that the light of the Gospel of salvation be proclaimed here and everywhere, the wisdom of God be honored and followed, and the gifts of God be treasured and shared. Lord of the Church,
- C** in mercy, hear our prayer.

- P** *We pray as this New Year begins for our nation and for all of the people of the world, that there be an end to hostilities and the pandemic and that times of peacefulness and wellness everywhere prevail. Lord of all times and all people,*
- C** **in mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P** *We pray for our families and our neighbors. Help us to remember that each person in our lives is a precious gift from God. Guided by the Holy Spirit, help us to choose wisely how we invest our time in the coming weeks and find in our associations with God's people a source of mutual support and blessing. Lord of all generations,*
- C** **in mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P** *We pray for all sorts and conditions of people, especially making our petitions for the hospitalized and those who are shut in. We pray for those whose lives are in transition, the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and for all those for whom our intercession is desired, [including . . .]. Lord of care and grace,*
- C** **in mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P** *Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.*
- C** **Amen.**

PREFACE

- P** *The Lord be with you.*
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** *Lift up your hearts.*
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** *It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have had mercy on us and sent Your only-begotten Son as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Grant us the gift of Your Spirit, that we receive Your wisdom and blessings with thankfulness. Help us to treasure the life of faith and worship we share and receive the body and blood of our Lord as the guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:*
- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** *Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, who in giving Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to accomplish our salvation has manifested Your divine love. We thank You for the blessed Meal now set before us. Keep us mindful of the sacrifice of our Lord for us. Joined together in the name of our Lord and in the communion of saints on earth and those in heaven, we pray You to send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your*

Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. **C Amen.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

P *O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:*

C **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.

PAX DOMINI

P *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

During Communion: Organ Interlude

Of the Father's Love Begotten

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P *Let us pray. Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Strengthen and support us, Your pilgrim people, so that we grow in wisdom and serve You and our neighbor. Keep us in Your care in the year that is beginning, and bring us at last to Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.*

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

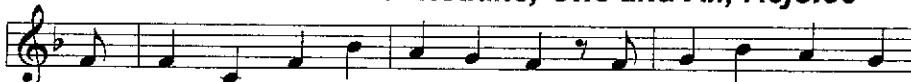
P *The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you His peace.*

C Amen.

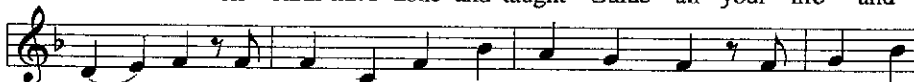
CLOSING HYMN

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

LSB 556



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re-joice, With ex-ul-ta-tion
5 God said to His be-lov-ed Son: "It's time to have com-
6 The Son o-beyed His Fa-ther's will, Was born of vir-gin
7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me, I am your rock and
10 "What I on earth have done and taught Guide all your life and



spring-ing, And with u-nit-ed heart and voice And ho-ly
pas-sion. Then go, bright jew-el of My crown, And bring to
moth-er; And God's good plea-sure to ful-fill, He came to
cas-tle. Your ran-som I My-self will be; For you I
teach-ing; So shall the king-dom's work be wrought And hon-ored



rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God has done, How
 all sal - va - tion. From sin and sor - row set them free; Slay
 be my broth - er. His roy - al pow'r dis - guised He bore; A
 strive and wres - tle. For I am yours, and you are Mine, And
 in your preach - ing. But watch lest foes with base al - loy The



His right arm the vic - t'ry won. What price our ran - som cost Him!
 bit - ter death for them that they May live with You for - ev - er."
 ser - vant's form, like mine, He wore To lead the dev - il cap - tive.
 where I am you may re - main; The foe shall not di - vide us.
 heav'n - ly trea - sure should de - stroy; This fi - nal word I leave you."

Text and tune: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

"Christmas Joy"

by Steven Scott

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WE WISH TO THANK the following for their participation in our worship service this morning:

Altar Guild.....Elsie Leiker & Marisa Showalter
 Communion Assistant.....Bill Milliken
 Counter..... Carl Kurth
 Organist / Music Director..... Beth Buss
 Sanitation CEO (Clean Every Object)..... Al Axford
 Service Web Recorder.....Robert Showalter
 Service Live Streaming.....Stuart Ruwet
 Usher.....Phil Vandre

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