FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Order of Worship – 9:00 AM

AS WE GATHER – Long ago Joseph, the son of Jacob, learned to see the Lord's hand even in sorrowful circumstances. What was meant for harm, the Lord used for good. We learn to speak these words only by faith. Though the firstborn sons of Bethlehem suffered the ultimate cost because of Jesus, through Herod’s atrocity the prophet’s word was fulfilled. “Out of Egypt I have called My Son.” Once more we are reminded that nothing can prevent God from accomplishing His purpose, especially when that purpose is redeeming us from sin and its death and bestowing upon us everlasting life. Hidden in Bethlehem’s sorrow is the mercy of God. To voices crying from the pain of death come too soon, He gives the gift of life that death cannot steal. This is what Jesus is born to accomplish, and in Egypt He is kept safe for this saving work so that we and the infant sons of Bethlehem may rejoice in life stronger than death.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

“Infant Holy” by Jeffrey Blersch

WELCOME

[Means please stand; ♫ Means please be seated]

♫ OPENING HYMN

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

1 Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav’n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Father’s grace divine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav’n-ly ground?

He from whom joy stream-eth Poor in a man-ger lies;
Cheer my wea-ried spir-it, O pure and ho-ly Child;
Death was reign-ing o’er us Through sin and van-i-ty
Where the an-gels sing-ing With all His saints u-nite,

(continued)
Not so brightly beam-eth The sun in yon-der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais-es bring-ing In heav'n-ly joy and light.

Thou my Sav - ior art! Draw me un - to Thee!
Thou my Sav - ior art! May we praise Him there!

Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P When the fullness of time had come,
C God sent forth His Son,
P born of woman, born under the law,
C to redeem those who were under the law.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P Holy and gracious God,
C I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask for Your forgiveness. Deliver me in Your mercy and restore me by Your grace that I amend my sinful life. Bring me to everlasting life. Amen.
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

INTROIT

P When Israel was a child, I loved him,
C and out of Egypt I called my son.
P Thus says the Lord: “A voice is heard in Ramah,
C lamentation and bitter weeping.
P Rachel is weeping for her children;
C she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.”
P Thus says the Lord: “Keep your voice from weeping,
C and your eyes from tears,
P for there is a reward for your work, declares the Lord,
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

There is hope for your future, declares the LORD,
and your children shall come back to their own country.”

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.

When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.

HYMN OF PRAISE

O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

1 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild! For sinners You became a child. You came from God we now are reconciled. You have for

2 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild! With fills the world which sin defiled. What- e'er we

3 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild! Joy heaven down to earth. In human flesh through

all the ransom paid, Your Father's righteous have belongs to You; O keep us faithful,

hu-man birth. O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
an-ger stayed. O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
strong, and true. O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!

Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

All: 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. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.
Let us share this peace with one another.
(People greet one another saying: "Peace be with you. And also with you.")
OLD TESTAMENT LESSON
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)
1 This is the Word of the Lord.  C Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 63:7–14

EPISTLE LESSON
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)
1 This is the Word of the Lord.  C Thanks be to God.

Galatians 4:4–7

ALLELUIA VERSE
(Luke 2:30, 32)
All: Alleluia. My eyes have seen your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL
(P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)
1 This is the Gospel of the Lord.  C Praise to You, O Christ.

Matthew 2:13–23

YOUTH MESSAGE
[Prayer requests will be collected at this time.]

HYMN OF THE DAY Let All Together Praise Our God  LSB 389

Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne; Today He opens heav’n again To in-fant small, And in a man-ger, poor and lone, Lies at-ing light; To serve us all He hum-bly cloaks The hu-man frame, And in re-turn gives us His realm, His mys-ter-y! How strong the ten-der Christ Child’s love! No give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
in a hum-ble stall, Lies in a hum-ble stall.
spen-dor of His might, The spen-dor of His might.
glo-ry, and His name, His glo-ry, and His name.
tru-er friend than He, No tru-er friend than He.

(continued)
6. He is the key and He the door
   To blessèd paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
   To God our praises rise,
   To God our praises rise.

7. Your grace in lowliness revealed,
   Lord Jesus, we adore
   And praise to God the Father yield
   And Spirit evermore;
   We praise You evermore. Amen.

SERMON

"OUT OF EGYPT"

Matthew 2:13-23

I. God called Israel out of Egypt in the Old Testament to lead them to the Promised Land.
II. God calls Jesus out of Egypt so that He can save us and lead us to the Promised Land of heaven.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits 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.

OFFERING

"O Jesus So Sweet" by Georg Friedrich Kauffman

OFFERTORY

What Child Is This

LSB 370

(continued)
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!

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. Bring to remembrance, O Lord, all of Your saving acts but most especially the gift of Your only-begotten Son, that we be brought to repentance and faith by the proclamation of Christ and trust in Him for the forgiveness of our sins and for everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, as we recall the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem, the first martyrs for the sake of Christ, make us mindful of those who in every time and place have sacrificed their lives to confess Jesus, and give us such boldness that we not shrink from standing in Christ in the face of threat, persecution, and death. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Receive our thanks, O Lord, for establishing Your Church and giving to her faithful pastors who preach Jesus Christ and faithful church workers who aid the cause of Your kingdom in their vocations on our behalf, and raise up those who will heed Your call to service in the next generation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, bestow Your blessing upon our own land and all the nations and those who lead the peoples, that they pursue the causes of peace and justice, punish the evildoer, and honor those who do good, especially for the sake of those least able to defend themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Strengthen our life together, O Lord, that we who have been baptized into Christ be united in doctrine and witness and so be equipped by Your grace to live upright, holy, and godly lives to Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, You are the strength of the weak, the peace of the troubled, the comfort of the grieving, and the hope of the dying. Hear us on behalf of the sick and those in any need, [especially . . .], that You deliver them according to Your gracious will, strengthen them to endure their afflictions, and sustain them to the day of the resurrection, when all pain and suffering shall cease. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Build within us, O Lord, generous hearts, that we act on behalf of the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the unemployed, the aged, and the infirm, that the riches with which You have supplied us be used to their aid and for the work of Your kingdom here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, O gracious Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.  

C Amen.
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.

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

P The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy
Spirit be with you all.
C Amen.
P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Ah, Lord, though You created all,
How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head
Where lowly cattle lately fed!

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.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

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

Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Birthday: Becky Sterk]

POSTLUDE

"Born is He, the Divine Christ Child" by Patricia Lou Harris

From Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.
Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.