

**Sunday, January 3, 2021**  
**Second Sunday of Christmas**  
**Year B**

*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Wilmington DE*  
*Leader Pages*



**GATHERING**

**Prelude** - *Cantor*

**Welcome** - *Presiding Minister*

**Confession and Forgiveness** - *Presiding Minister*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who was in the beginning,  
who makes a dwelling among us,  
who covers us with justice and mercy.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of goodness and lovingkindness,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
and our neighbors. We have turned away from your  
invitation to new life. We have turned away from the  
lowly and downtrodden.**

**In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,  
those we know and those known only to you,  
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!  
God forgives us all our sins,  
not through our own work,  
but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.

With all who come to the manger,  
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.  
**Amen.**

Gathering Song - *ELW 300*

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - `rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*  
 night that was so deep.  
 tin - ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

**Greeting** - *Presiding Minister*

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

**And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day** - *Assistant Minister*

Let us Pray.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Song of Praise** - *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**WORD**

**First Reading (Jeremiah 31:7-14)** - *Lector*

A reading from Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O Lord, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

8See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among  
them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

9 With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall no stumble; for I have  
become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

10 Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

11 For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and  
they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the  
grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the  
young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning  
into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

14 I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading (Ephesians 1:3-14) - *Lector***

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** - *Cantor*

**Gospel (John 1:1-18)** - *Preacher*

The Holy Gospel According to John.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

[1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") 16From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you O Christ.**

**Sermon** - Pastor Jason

## Hymn of the Day - ELW 487



- 1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?
- 2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?
- 3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?  
 What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?  
 What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.  
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.  
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!  
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!  
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv-en!

**Creed** - Lector

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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,\*  
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
 who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

### Prayers of Intercession - *Lector*

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

### Offering Song ELW 284 - *Cantor*



1 'Twas in the moon of win-ter-time when all the birds had fled, that  
 2 With-in a lodge of bro-ken bark the ten-der babe was found; a  
 3 The ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and fair as  
 4 O chil-dren of the for-est free, the an-gel-song is true; the



\*God the Lord of all the earth sent an-gel choirs in-stead; be-  
 rag-ged robe of rab-bit skin en-wrapped his beau-ty round; but  
 was the ring of glo-ry on the help-less in-fant there. The  
 ho-ly child of earth and heav'n is born to-day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan-d'ring hunt-ers heard the hymn:  
 as the hunt-er braves drew nigh, the an-gel song rang loud and high:  
 chiefs from far be-fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea-ver pelt.  
 kneel be-fore the ra-diant boy, who brings you beau-ty, peace, and joy.



Je-sus your king is born! Je-sus is born, in ex-cel-sis glo-ri-a!

**Offering Prayer** - *Assistant Minister*

Let us pray.

Gracious God,  
you came to us as one unknown,  
bringing joy and salvation to the earth.  
Nourish us by your Word,  
that with all who welcome your birth  
we may proclaim your peace,  
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**Dialogue & Thanksgiving** - *Presiding Minister*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, at the  
birth of time your Word brought light into the world, and  
throughout the ages, you proclaim newness of life.  
For your wondrous Word, we thank you, O God.

**We thank you, O God.**

In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh,  
to shine in our world's darkness,  
to speak peace to all people,  
and to welcome us as members of your family.  
For your loving Word, we adore you, O God.

**We adore you, O God.**

Grant us now the gift of your Spirit,  
that held, nourished, and protected by your Word,  
we may live as your children,  
bearing your goodness throughout the world.  
For your powerful Word, we praise you, O God.  
**We praise you, O God.**

All glory to you, holy God,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit we pray as Jesus taught:

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **Blessing** - *Presiding Minister*

Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you and those whom you love and pray for this day †  
through the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

### **Dismissal** - *Assistant Minister*

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude** - *Cantor*