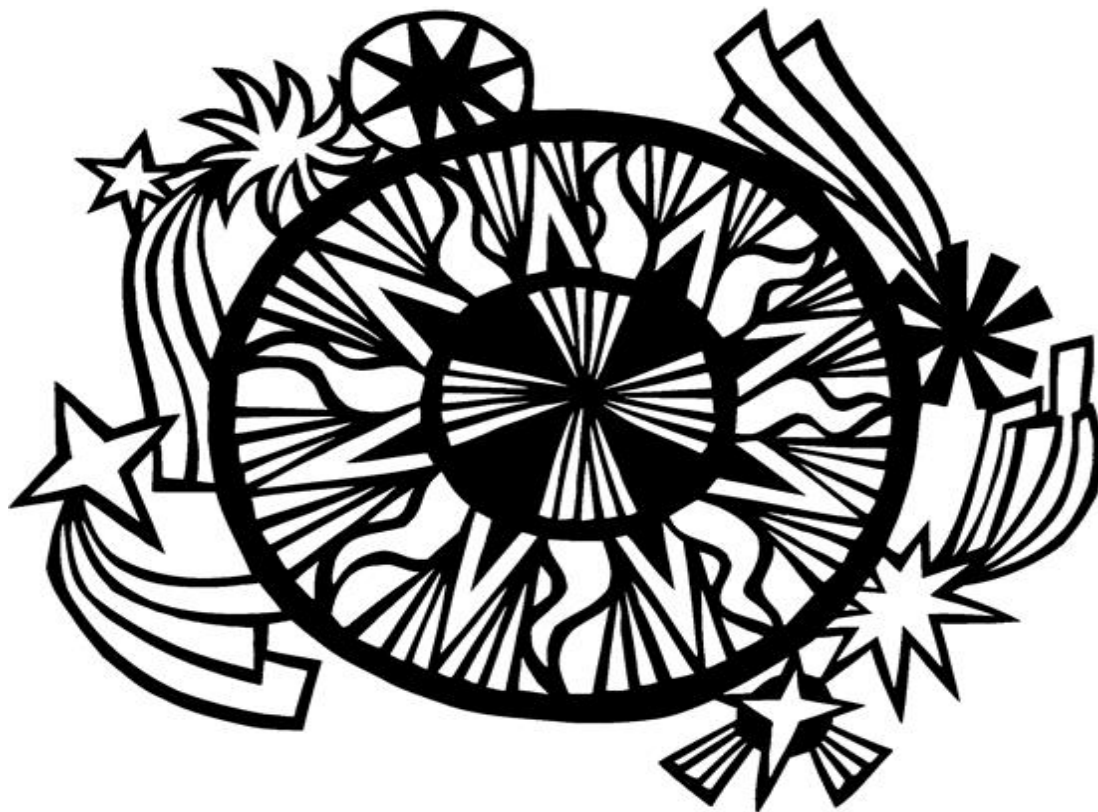


CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 5, 2025
10:30 A.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 EAST STROOP ROAD
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688
(937) 298-0136

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Introduction

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Beyond Boundaries

One difficulty with the Gospel of John as we read it in our own context is grappling with passages that draw boundaries between who is "in" and who is "out." The gospel sometimes edges toward contempt, or at least uncharity, for those who reject Jesus' identity and message. Historically, this gospel has been used to perpetuate anti-Jewish and anti-Semitic rhetoric, so we need to approach it with care and love.

The verses in our reading today reflect a concern with Jesus' identity and the boundaries between those who do and those who do not accept him. Verses 10 and 11 refer to the ignorance and rejection Jesus faces on earth. The passage continues by lifting up the benefits of choosing to receive and follow Jesus: the power to become children of God (as Jesus himself is a child of God).

Because Jesus, the Word made flesh, has come to earth to reveal the grace, truth, and glory of God—a God who pours out an abundance: "grace upon grace"! (John 1:16)—we read today's passage not as guidance about who gets cut out of God's inheritance but, rather, as assurance of the wideness of God's love.

Jesus will make God known to the world, despite conflicts and hostilities that might threaten this work. At many later places, the gospel also points to the expansiveness of this mission, whether the assurance in John 3 that "God so loved the [whole] world" or Jesus' promise in John 10 that he has sheep from other folds.

We cling to a Jesus who crosses boundaries—even the final boundary of death. There are no conflicts, powers, divisions, disagreements, or hostilities that can turn Jesus away from his message of abundant life for all.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judy Treadway

** GREETING

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.

** OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

You are gracious and merciful, O God, slow to anger, rich in love. Receive our prayers as you have promised and uphold us by your Spirit, until all things, mended by your mercy, are made whole and well in you, through Jesus Christ, our healer and our hope. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

The First Noel (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.

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

A reading from the book of 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." See, 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. 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 not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. 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." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. 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. 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. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 147:12-20

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,

**who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**

God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.**

God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.

**God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?**

The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

**God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

The Lord has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In 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, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In 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; this 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 READING**

John 1:[1-9] 10-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the

world.] He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And 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. (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.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No 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.**

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pr. Bob Swanson

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (King of Heaven)

(Verse 1)

Hark! the herald angels sing: glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled; (pause)
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim: Christ is born in Bethlehem;
Hark! the herald angels sing: glory to the newborn King.

(Verse 2)

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace, hail the Son of righteousness;
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings; (pause)
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die;
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth;
Hark! the herald angels sing: glory to the newborn King.

(Refrain)

King of heaven, come down; King of heaven, come now;
Let your glory reign, shining like the day. King of heaven, come.
King of heaven, rise up. Who can stand against us?
You are strong to save, in your mighty name. King of heaven, come.
(Oh...)

(Verse 3)

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb; (pause)
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing: glory to the newborn King, the newborn King.

(Refrain)

King of heaven, come down; King of heaven, come now;
Let your glory reign, shining like the day. King of heaven, come.
King of heaven, rise up. Who can stand against us?
You are strong to save, in your mighty name. King of heaven, come.

King of heaven, come. King of heaven, come.
King of heaven, come. King of heaven, come.

King of heaven, come down; King of heaven, come now;
Let your glory reign, shining like the day. King of heaven, come.

**** 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 power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended **into hell**.
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**

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

*Each intercession concludes: God of grace, **receive our prayer.***

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another .

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus. **Amen.**

For those of you communing at home or in the pews.

COMMUNION HYMN

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (ELW 490)



- 1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
- 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
- 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

** BLESSING

The God of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

** SENDING SONG

Shine, Jesus, Shine (W&P 123)

Refrain

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and begins with a common time signature. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes a double bar line with repeat signs, and a box indicating alternative endings for 'To stanzas' and 'Last time'.

Chords: A, E/A, D, A/C#, Bm, B⁷, E, A, E/A, D, A, Bm, Bm/A, G, E, A, E/A, D, A/C#, Bm, B⁷, E, A, E/A, D, A/C#, Bm, E⁷, A, D, A, D/A, A, E/A, A, D/A, A, E/A.

Lyrics:
 Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the
 Fa - ther's glo - ry; blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our
 hearts on fire. Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the
 na - tions with grace and mer - cy; send forth your Word,
 Lord, and let there be light!
 1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing,
 2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness,
 in the midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing;
 so our fac - es dis - play your like - ness,

To stanzas: E/A D/A
 Last time: A

D E/D C#m F#m
 Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
 ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,
 D E/D C#m F#m
 set us free by the truth you now bring us.
 mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.
 G Esus E G Esus E *Refrain*
 Shine on on me, shine on on me:
 Shine on on me, shine on on me:

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. **Amen.**

Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, thanks be to God!

“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two

**Make a commitment to not only worship each week
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation
and seek out a way to serve our community.**

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

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