St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill December 26, 2021 First Sunday of Christmas Please tune to 87.9 FM



*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.**

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \oplus one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth. **Amen.**

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.

In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace. Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW #283

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW #270

FIRST READING Exodus 13:1-3, 11-15

¹The LORD said to Moses: ²Consecrate to me all the firstborn; whatever is the first to open the womb among the Israelites, of human beings and animals, is mine. ³Moses said to the people, "Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, because the LORD brought you out from there by strength of hand; no leavened bread shall be eaten. ¹¹When the LORD has brought you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your ancestors, and has given it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your livestock that are males shall be the LORD's. ¹³But every firstborn donkey you shall redeem with a sheep; if you do not redeem it, you must break its neck. Every firstborn male among your children you shall redeem. ¹⁴When in the future your child asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall answer, 'By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human firstborn to the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD every male that first opens the womb, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem.' The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 111

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

His praise endures forever.

SECOND READING Colossians 3:12-17

¹Praise the LORD!

²Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

³Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

⁵He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint

against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go

*GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." ³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too." ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. The Word of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Bells of Christmas (v 1-4)

ELW #298

*THE 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 Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
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

Each petition of the prayers ends with the following response:

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

*PEACE

OFFERING HYMN Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (twice) ELW #184

*OFFERTORY Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow ELW #885

*OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS p 153

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, 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.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

Away in a Manger

ELW #277

ELW #545

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may these precious gifts of Christ's body and blood strengthen you and keep you in God's grace this day. **Amen**

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

*BLFSSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior. Thanks be to God.



Our Church Family:

Mavis Smith Janice Cordova Sydney Wagner Florence Bentke Gilbert Spinn Helen Gaskamp Ella Ruemke Cynthia Wilson Verna Mae Sefcik Linda King Jerry Randermann Clarence Moehlmann **Dorothy Wiesepape** Mary Ann Luce Connie Seward Justin Reuter Marjorie Hohlt Mary Longhofer Tom Bentke Charles "Dutch" Schulze

A.G. "Doc" & Allene Holtkamp Peggy & Milton Bosse
John & Carol Haarmeyer Emery & Helen Schulze

Those celebrating baptismal anniversaries: Steven Meyer, Frank Smith, Lloyd Neutzler, Allen Parker, David Stegent, Mark Williams, Robert Fairlie, Alexandra Amann

Those celebrating wedding anniversaries: Charles & Ellen Spinn, Ryan & Linda Tosta

Friends & Family:

Alyssa & Ezlyn Jones
Blake Bates
Carol Lieber
Christy Dallmeyer
Corrie Newland
Holly Haarmeyer Rodriquez
John Tuefel
Missy Goldmith
Shannon Wellmann

Please notify the church office of any prayer request by simply writing a note on the back of your attendance card. Thank you!

REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

Email: prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com Church Office Phone: 979-836-8666

Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:00am-4:00pm Website: www.stjohnprairiehill.org

Church Council President Jon Westerfeld (979) 277-2471



New worship times for January! Please join us!

Next Sunday, January 2nd Second Sunday of Christmas

8:00AM Worship Service

9:00AM No Sunday School

10:05AM Worship Service

Announcements from St. John

Annual Reports: Please have annual reports in the church office on Jan. 3, 2022

End of the Year Giving: As the calendar year draws to a close, please consider a special gift to support the mission of St. John Lutheran Church. Your gifts help us to reach more people with the Gospel, and to share the faith with the next generation. Financial gifts need to be received at the church by **TODAY**, **December 26**th to be reported on your giving statement from the church for 2021.



2022 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex!

The 2022 Flower Chart has been posted in the Annex. Please sign up for your altar flowers for next year!



