



A Garden **OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PRAISE**

ISAIAH 61:10-11

**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
First Sunday after Christmas**

**Prospect Heights, IL
December 27, 2020**

AS WE GATHER

“When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,” born of the woman, *“to redeem those who were under the law”* (Gal. 4:4–5). Simeon praised God and blessed the parents of the Christ-child by confessing the cross for which this child was appointed. We also *“greatly rejoice in the LORD,”* because this child has clothed us *“with the garments of salvation,”* covered us *“with the robe of righteousness”* and called us *“by a new name”* (Is. 61:10; 62:2). The Lord causes *“righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations”* (Is. 61:11). ***The Time Has Fully Come for Redemption and Purification through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.***

+ PREPARATION +

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Luke 2:30, 32; Psalm 71:19, 23

P Alleluia! My eyes have seen Your salvation,

C a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. Alleluia!

P Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.

C You who have done great things, O God, who is like You?

P My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to You;

C my soul also, which You have redeemed.

519 IN HIS TEMPLE NOW BEHOLD HIM

1 In His temple now behold Him,
See the long-expected Lord;
Ancient prophets had foretold Him,
God has now fulfilled His word.
Now to praise Him, His redeemed
Shall break forth with one accord.

2 In the arms of her who bore Him,
Virgin pure, behold Him lie
While His aged saints adore Him
Ere in perfect faith they die.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lo, the incarnate God Most High!

3 Jesus, by Your presentation,
When they blessed You, weak and poor,
Make us see Your great salvation,
Seal us with Your promise sure;
And present us in Your glory
To Your Father, cleansed and pure.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** People redeemed by the Lord, let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
- C** Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of having sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not lived our lives fully in the freedom won for us by our Lord. We have not always shared the bounty You have given us as stewards of Your creation. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus, our Savior. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.
- P** God has promised pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son, who has replaced slavery to sin with a priceless inheritance of freedom and joy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.
- C** Amen.

+ WORD +

INTROIT

Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 52:10

- C** The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
- P** *Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.*
- C** *The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.*
- C** *He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*
- P** *Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!*
- C** 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.

The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

KYRIE

LSB 186

- C** Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB 154

- A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.
- C** Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.
For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
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.
- C** Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22–40

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

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

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said 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, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

389 LET ALL TOGETHER PRAISE OUR GOD

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|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav’n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son. | 4 | He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name. |
| 2 | He leaves His heav’nly Father’s throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall. | 5 | He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child’s love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He. |
| 3 | Within an earthborn form He hides
His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might. | 6 | He is the key and He the door
To blessed 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.

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SERMON

Apostles' Creed

C 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 thence 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Gathered as God's people and as heirs of an eternal inheritance, let us pray for the whole Church and for all who bear the name of Jesus Christ, who is our Light and our Salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P As we remember St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, we pray for the Church, asking that through her the joyous news of salvation be proclaimed as the Holy Spirit directs. Give us faith to acknowledge and rejoice in the fellowship that we share in Christ with people here and in every place, that we may see in each sister and brother in Christ a reflection of Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord of all, watch over our nation and grant Your divine favor to all who bear office in our land, especially the president and Congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of Illinois, and to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. Help them to serve all those in their care according to Your holy will, that we may live in peace and safety.

Save us from pestilence and plague, for unseasonable weather, and the dangers that are ever-present in our lives. Grant us Your blessing as one calendar year closes and another begins. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Give a special measure of blessing to those with special needs. Especially we remember the sick, the shut-in, those dealing with depression, those who sorrow, and others known to us who at this time are in need of prayer, we pray for Hedy Beer, Kathleen, Alicia, Sallyann, Sheila, Lou, Jean Staffa, Dana, Kaylee, Leah, Terri, Rory, Jean, Brad Koelper, Ray Wirsing, Rod Isaacson, Sharlene, Fran, Jeanne Zundel, Doug, Paula, Wally Olson & Pastor Barber. Help us to be people who bless, encourage, and strengthen all those in our circles of relationship and beyond. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Sovereign Lord, we remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven. Bless the communion we share on earth as we await the Supper of the Lamb in His kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all of God's people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you and keep you and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

390 LET US ALL WITH GLADSOME VOICE

1 Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given.

2 To this vale of tears He comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes
We may reign in gladness.

3 We are rich, for He was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.

4 Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,
Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us.

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