

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: *(sing)* **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sing)* **Amen.**

BLESSING

Christian Worship page 25

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: *(sing)* **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

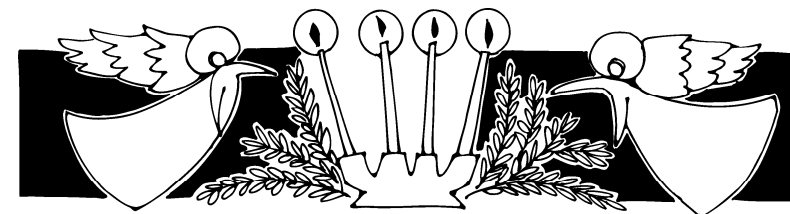
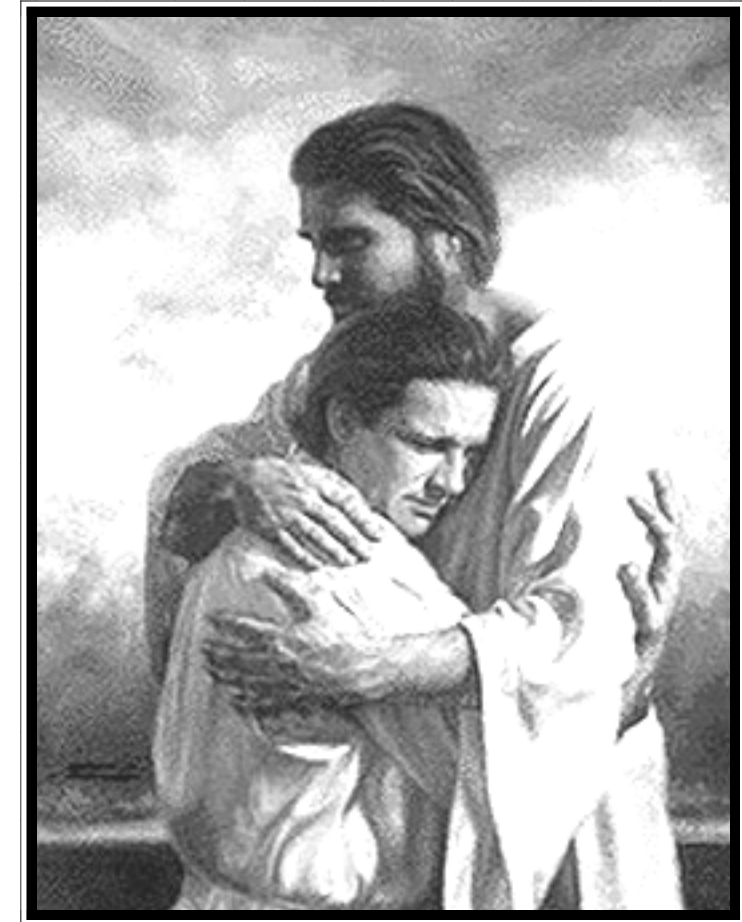
Closing Hymn "O Little Town Of Bethlehem"
Christian Worship Hymn 66

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears Of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, The angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing To God the King
And peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts To human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will Receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin And enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, Abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!



Second Sunday After Christmas

JANUARY 4, 2009



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FAMILY MATTERS!

IT MATTERS WHO'S YOUR BROTHER!

Good morning and Happy New Year!

As we begin another New Year, many questions arise as to what the New Year will bring...politically, economically, militarily...etc. Putting all those aside, the new year is a great time to focus on what's most important - our family, and most importantly our spiritual family. Marvel today that Jesus considers us brothers and sisters! God bless this day and year of worship!

Opening Hymn..... “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”
Sung to the tune of “Hymn to Joy”, Christian Worship Hymn 169

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest!
Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *(sing)* **Amen.**

“O Christ, Lamb Of God” *Christian Worship* page 23

*O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us.*

*O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us.*

*O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace.*

A-men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

STAND

“Song of Simeon” *Christian Worship* page 24

*Lord, now you let your servant de-part in peace
ac-cord-ing to your word.*

*For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have pre-pared be-fore the face of all people,*

*a light to light-en the Gen-tiles
and the glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.*

THE SACRAMENT

The Celebration of Holy Communion *CW pages 21-24*



At Tree of Life, we desire to have all commune with us at the Lord's Table. However, since the Scripture encourages us to "recognize the body and blood of the Lord," "examine ourselves," and join together as "one body," we ask those who are visiting with us this morning to take the time to understand these teachings and establish a unity of beliefs with us before partaking of this act of fellowship. By this practice of close communion, we are in no way judging your personal faith and relationship with Jesus, we just ask for an opportunity for us to share our beliefs with you so that together we can make a true expression of oneness at the Lord's Table.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: (sing) And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: (sing) We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: (sing) It is good and right to do so.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name, and join their glorious song:

“Holy, Holy, Holy” *Christian Worship page 22*

*Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of heav-en-ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry.*

Ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.

*Bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he,
bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

Ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.

The Common Service *Christian Worship page 15*

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (sing) Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil, and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

C: (sing) Lord, have mercy on us; Christ, have mercy on us; Lord, have mercy on us.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (sing) Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Song of Praise “Glory Be To God”
Christian Worship pages 16-17

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men,
We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for you great glory,

O Lord God, heavenly king, God the Father al mighty,
O Lord , the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

Continued on next page

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer,
You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father, Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sing)* **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sing)* **AMEN.**

BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON

MICAH 5:2-5a

"Micah foretold the birth of the Savior becoming flesh, born in Bethlehem."

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." 3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

4 He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

5 And he will be their peace.

STAND

"Create In Me A Clean Heart" *Christian Worship page 20*

*Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re-new a right spir-it with-in me.*

*Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence,
and take not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me.*

*Re-store un-to me the joy of your sal-va-tion,
and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A-men.*

BE SEATED

Friendship Registers

Offering

STAND

Prayer of the Church

LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever. Amen.

Hymn “Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly”

Christian Worship Hymn 45

Oh, rejoice, all Christians, loudly,
For our joys have now begun; Wondrous things our God has done.
Tell abroad his goodness proudly,
Who our race has honored so, That he lives with us below.
Joy, oh, joy beyond all gladness,
Christ has done away with sadness!
Hence all sorrow and repining, For the Sun of grace is shining!
See, my soul, your Savior chooses Poverty and weakness, too;
In such love he comes to you.
Neither crib nor cross refuses, All he suffers for your good
To redeem you by his blood.
Joy, oh, joy beyond all gladness,
Christ has done away with sadness!
Hence all sorrow and repining, For the Sun of grace is shining!
Lord, how shall I thank you rightly? I am saved eternally
By your life and death for me.
Let me not regard you lightly But on you in faith depend,
Praising you, my heav'nly friend.
Joy, oh, joy beyond all gladness,
Christ has done away with sadness!
Hence all sorrow and repining, For the Sun of grace is shining!
Jesus, guard and guide your members; Make us children of your grace;
Hear our prayers in ev'ry place.
Fan to life faith's glowing embers; Give all Christians far and near
Holy peace, a glad new year.
Joy, oh, joy beyond all gladness,
Christ has done away with sadness!
Hence all sorrow and repining, For the Sun of grace is shining!

FAMILY MATTERS!

IT MATTERS WHO'S YOUR BROTHER!

Hebrews 2:10-18

Pastor Mike Geiger

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 148 *Christian Worship page 121*

Refrain: Forever let us sing- the goodness of the Lord..

Praise the Lord from the `heavens,*
praise him in the `heights above.

Praise him, all his `angels,*
praise him all his `heavenly hosts.

Praise him, `sun and moon,*
praise him, all you `shining stars.

Refrain

Praise the Lord `from the earth,*
lightning and hail, stormy winds that do his `bidding,
you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all `cedars,*
wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and `flying birds,
kings of the earth and all rul`ers on earth,*
young men and maidens, old men and `children.

Let them praise the name `of the Lord,*
for his splendor is above the earth and the `heavens.

**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**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

HEBREWS 2:10-18

*“Jesus shared in our humanity so that he might pay for the sins of the human race.
As our Brother he understands and helps us .”*

10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. 12 He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." 13 And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

M: Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia.

C: (sing) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

STAND

After the announcement of the Gospel Lesson:

C: (sing) Glory be to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 7:40-43

“Is he just a man? Is he the Christ? Both! But not all believe this!”

40 On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet."

41 Others said, "He is the Christ."

Still others asked, "How can the Christ come from Galilee? 42 Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" 43 Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.

After the reading of the Gospel Lesson:

C: (sing) Praise be to you, O Christ!

Statement of Belief 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 our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

BE SEATED