

GATHERING**Gathering Hymn**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Hymn No.288

Greeting

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

Gloria

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Prayer of the Day

(Together) **Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD**Teaching Moment****Children’s Sermon****First Lesson****Numbers 6:22-27**

²²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²³Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, ²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; ²⁶the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. ²⁷So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

(After the reading:) The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 8 (Responsively, Lector and People)

¹O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;**

You have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

³**When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,**

⁴what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?

⁵**Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.**

⁶You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:

⁷**all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,**

⁸the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,

and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

⁹**O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

Second Lesson

Galatians 4:4-7

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

(After the reading:) The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia

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**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:15-21

(Spoken after the announcement) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. ²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

(Spoken after the reading) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor David Echelbarger

Hymn of the Day

“Love Has Come”

Hymn No.292

Nicene Creed

(Together) 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

(After each petition) Lord, in your mercy, ...**hear our prayer.**

Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, creator of all ...

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again ...

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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Invitation

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior. All are welcome.

Lamb of God

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Distribution

We invite all baptized Christians and visitors of all denominations, even the youngest, to the table of the Lord. Children who desire a blessing rather than receiving the bread and the wine should stand with folded hands to indicate their preference. Please follow the ushers' directions to one of several communion stations in the sanctuary. If you need to have the sacrament brought to your pew, please inform an usher. Receive the wine or indicate a preference for grape juice by asking the server or pointing to the center of the tray. *Gluten free wafers available upon request.*

Distribution Hymns

"What Child Is This"

Hymn No 296

"The Bells of Christmas"

Hymn No 298

Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

(Together) **On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Benediction

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Cold December Flies Away”

Hymn No. 299

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God’s people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Go Tell It On the Mountain”

Arr. Carter



From the beginning, by virtue of our baptism, we are called Christian. We were “Christ-ened” at the font. Bearing his name, we share the same Father and are invited to address him intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of the Father. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.