



What were you looking for a few days ago when we gathered for the annual celebration of Christmas? If you knew what you were looking for, did you find it? Did you find answers to all your troubles when you sang the Christmas songs? Or are you still searching? That's okay, because for two more days, it's still Christmas. It's not too late. :-)

In Joseph and Mary's anxiety over their three-day search for Jesus, they couldn't find Him in the crowds or among their relatives and friends. It was only as they returned to the temple, the place of God the Father's promised earthly presence, that they found who they were looking for.

You have come to the right place, the place of God's promised presence for you—here, in God's House, where His Word is preached, His Sacraments are administered, and His grace, love, and forgiveness are given and applied to you. You will find Jesus here!

So do not be anxious about your life. You are seeking the answers in the right place, in the kingdom of God and in His righteousness given to you this day in His mighty, saving Word!

¤ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ¤

SONG SET *Michael Amidei, Infinite Grace band*

Please refer to the screens for the song lyrics.

We Three Kings; Baby Boy

INVOCATION *Pastor Ben Oesch*

Matthew 28:19b

Pastor (P): We call on the name of the Triune God—the name into which we have been baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the ☧ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen!

CONFESSON OF SIN AND FORGIVENESS

SONG Lord I Need You

OLD TESTAMENT READING *1 Kings 3:4-15*

David Hudson, Lector

And [King Solomon] went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And You have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give Your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern Your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this Your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days." And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 1:3-14

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, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:40-52

And the child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.

Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for Him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished. And His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us so? Behold, Your father and I have been searching for You in great distress." And He said to them, "Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT

Let's get to know each other better! Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code. Thank you!



CHILDREN'S CHAT *Sam Scheck*

+ Children's Bulletins are available on the entrance table. +

OFFERING AND PRAYER *for giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give*

SONG Away in a Manger

MESSAGE "This Kid Is Different" text: Luke 2:40-52

Even when we don't understand, Jesus is a treasure worth holding in our hearts.

STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE NICENE CREED

ALL: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life **of the world to come.** Amen!

PRAYERS

In January, we Pray with an Open Heart for those with health issues (physical, mental, emotional).

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

ALL: 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!

HOLY COMMUNION: PREPARATION

Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. *1Corinthians 11:28-29*

Since those who take Christ's body and blood without understanding His true

presence do so to their harm, and since the sacrament of Holy Communion is a faith statement confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or hold a confession differing from that of this church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and wish to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with Pastor.

DISTRIBUTION

*You will be ushered forward for Communion.

*If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, you may keep your hands folded.

*You may request wine without alcohol and/or a gluten-free wafer.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

I Am The Bread of Life

GOD'S WORD OF BLESSING

In this Divine Service, by the gift of faith, the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive His graces. We now leave this house of worship to share HISTORY!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING SONG Joyful (The One Who Saves)

⌘ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ⌘

Happy New Year!

Please join us for
Epiphany Worship
January 6, 7pm

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

~Philippians 4:6-7

LORD, LAY SOME SOUL UPON MY HEART AND LOVE THAT SOUL THROUGH ME: AND MAY I GLADLY DO MY PART TO WIN THAT SOUL FOR THEE. AMEN!

CONNECT CARDS

Guests and members, please:

- ◆ fill out a Connect card, or
- ◆ scan the QR code to connect with us online

Cards are on clipboards at the end of a row. These methods include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors.

We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with YOU!

