

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025

Divine Service, Setting Four

Word of Welcome

Prelude

Hymn #380: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Exhortation

P: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins

C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

A moment of silent reflection

Absolution

[John 20:19-23]

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Introit

Psalms 93:1, 3-4; antiphon: vv. 5, 2

L: Your decrees are very trustworthy;

C: **holiness befits Your house, O LORD, forevermore.**

L: Your throne is established from of old;

C: **You are from everlasting.**

L: The LORD reigns; He is robed in majesty;

C: **the LORD is robed; He has put on strength as His belt.**

L: Yes, the world is established;

C: **it shall never be moved.**

L: The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice;

C: **the floods lift up their roaring.**

L: Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea,

C: **the LORD on high is mighty!**

**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.**

L: Your decrees are very trustworthy;
C: **holiness befits Your house, O LORD, forevermore.**
L: Your throne is established from of old;
C: **You are from everlasting.**

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis (sung)

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

**To God on high be glory; And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven; Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high—**

**For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.
L: Let us pray.

C: **And also with you.**

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: Isaiah 11:1-5 (ESV)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
And His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what His eyes see,
or decide disputes by what His ears hear,
but with righteousness He shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
and with the breath of His lips He shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt of His waist,
and faithfulness the belt of His loins.

L: This is the Word of the LORD.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle: Galatians 4:1-7 (ESV)

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So 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 2:33-40 (ESV)

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

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

And His father and his mother marveled at what was said about Him. And 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 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

And 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, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And 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.

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

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

Hymn #342: What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

Sermon

Offertory (sung)

Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Offering from God's People

Stewardship Prayer

Heavenly Father, You have given us so many gifts of worldly goods and resources, but Your greatest gift to us is Jesus, who came to give us eternal life with You, through His life, death, resurrection, and ascension. Help us to see in Him that it is truly more blessed to give than to receive, that we may not hoard for ourselves either worldly goods or the message of the Gospel, but rather freely share them so that others too can know the blessing of Your Fatherly love. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

(8:00) The service will conclude with the Benediction.

(10:45) The service continues with the Service of the Sacrament.

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

P: The Lord be with you.	C: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts.	C: We lift them to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.	C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
P: It is truly good, right, and salutary. . .	
. . . we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:	

Sanctus (sung)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

**Holy, holy, holy LORD God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution

Pax Domini

John 20:19

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.	C: Amen.
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Agnus Dei (sung)

John 1:29

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| 1. O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray. | 2. O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray. |
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Distribution Hymns

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| 1. #629: What Is This Bread | 2. #372: Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising |
| 3. #376: Once in Royal David's City | |

Nunc Dimittis (*stand to sing*)

Luke 2:29-32

**O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.**

**All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.**

Dismissal & Post-Communion Prayer

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

P: Let us bless the LORD.	C: Thanks be to God.
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Benediction

Hymn #389: Let All Together Praise Our God

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew D. Priem | Reader: Doug Bolton/Scott Kastman | Musician: Jordan Fox

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