

JANUARY 22, 2023 • 8:30 AM • THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

**Welcome!** We're excited you're here. In our service, we gather before Almighty God to offer Him our worship and praise. We come together to be strengthened through the study of God's Word and empowered to live as His witnesses.

**Families**, if you brought your children with you today, we want you to know that the spiritual well-being of your child is very important to us. Many families wish to teach and encourage their younger child(ren) to be in church and get what they can out of it. If you feel that you need to take your child out for whatever reason; there is a cry room near the back of the sanctuary and a restroom with a baby changing station is located by the elevator (to the left as you exit the sanctuary). **Guests**, we welcome you. If you will, please help us to get to know you by filling out the Guest side of the Welcome Card found in the pews/ chair backs and place it in the offering plates.

**As We Gather** Are you continuing to grow in wisdom? If so, in what ways are you growing in wisdom and where do you look to grow in wisdom? If not, what habits could you put into your life to intentionally grow in wisdom? Do you have a favorite Bible verse? Do you know your identity in Christ? God, our Father, adopts us as His sons and daughters. Through His grace, He makes us an heir. And He gives His children good gifts. As we seek to gain more wisdom in this world, hear these words from a wise man named Solomon: Proverbs 4:6-7 (MSG): *Above all and before all, do this: Get Wisdom! Write this at the top of your list: Get Understanding!*

## WELCOME

*Please Stand*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## OPENING HYMN

389 Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His  
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To  
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.  
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.

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## OPENING SENTENCES

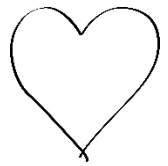
*John 3:16; Titus 2:11; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 1 John 2:2*

P For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,  
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

**C For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.**

P This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,  
who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**C He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.**



## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Romans 3:22b-25a, 6:23*

P For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith.

**C For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

*[ We reflect upon our need for Jesus' forgiveness found in His Word. ]*

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**C O Giver of all good gifts, we come to You today acknowledging our foolishness and shortsightedness. As we live in this world, we succumb to the thinking of this world, which does not always align with Your thoughts. Amid the strains and stresses of life, we forget about Your unfailing love for us and for all in our world. For the sake of Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, forgive our sins and renew us by Your love.**

P Our God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, loves us dearly and blesses us with every spiritual blessing. We have redemption through Jesus' blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. 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 Thank You, Jesus! Amen.**

## GREETING

### HYMN OF PRAISE

*389 Let All Together Praise Our God*

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.

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.

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.

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### SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Lord God, You are the fountain and source of all wisdom. You made Solomon a wise king. Your Son demonstrated this wisdom in the temple. Grant us Your wisdom so that we may share it in our communities and throughout the world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Be Seated*

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**+ WORD +**

*Taking the cross of grace and peace to form a community of uncommon servants.*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** (*Knowing God and knowing ourselves.*)

Psalm 119:129-136

L <sup>129</sup> *Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.*

C <sup>130</sup> **The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.**

L <sup>131</sup> *I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments.*

C <sup>132</sup> **Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name.**

L <sup>133</sup> *Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me.*

C <sup>134</sup> **Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep your precepts.**

L <sup>135</sup> *Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.*

C <sup>136</sup> **My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.**

L *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

392 *God Loves Me Dearly*

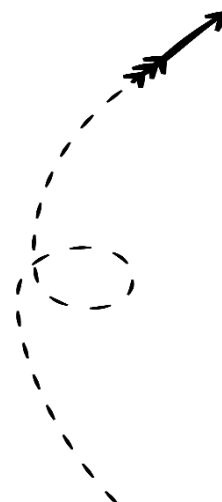
1 God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,  
God loves me dearly, Loves even me. *Refrain*

*Refrain*      *Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.*

2 I was in slav'ry, Sin, death, and darkness;  
God's love was working, To make me free. *Refrain*

4 Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;  
Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed. *Refrain*

5 Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal;  
Now I will praise You, All my life long. *Refrain*



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**EPISTLE** (*In His infinite wisdom, God gives us an eternal inheritance.*)

*Ephesians 1:3-14*

<sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> 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, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

L *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please Stand*

**VERSE**

*Luke 2:40*

P Alleluia. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.

C **And the favor of God was upon Him. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** (*Jesus is found sharing His wisdom in the temple.*)

Luke 2:40-52

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

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

<sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. <sup>41</sup> Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup> And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup> 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, <sup>45</sup> and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> 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." <sup>49</sup> And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup> 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. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be Seated – Children are dismissed for Children's Church (CC).*

**MESSAGE HYMN**

579 *The Law of God Is Good and Wise*

1 The Law of God is good and wise And sets His  
 2 Its light of ho - li - ness im - parts The knowl - edge  
 3 To those who help in Christ have found And would in

will be - fore our eyes, Shows us the way of righ - teous -  
 of our sin - ful hearts That we may see our lost es -  
 works of love a - bound It shows what deeds are His de -

ness, And dooms to death when we trans - gress.  
 tate And turn from sin be - fore too late.  
 light And should be done as good and right.

6 To Jesus we for refuge flee, Who from the curse has set us free,  
And humbly worship at His throne, Saved by His grace through faith alone.

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**MESSAGE**

*Please Stand*



**NICENE CREED**

**C 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; ...**

*Taking the cross of grace and peace to form a community of uncommon servants.*

## NICENE CREED (cont.)

**C** ...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.

**OFFERING** *(Thanks for your ongoing stewardship and support of God's mission here! Children return from CC.)*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Prayer response after each petition...)*

**P** Lord of our lives,  
**C** Hear our prayer.

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9–13*

## BENEDICTION

*Ephesians 1:3, 13–14*

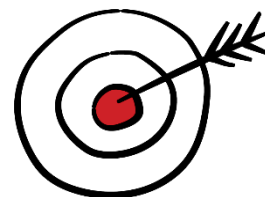
**P** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. . . . In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory."

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

*725 Children of the Heavenly Father*

1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly  
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His  
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His  
in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in  
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He  
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose  
heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.  
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.



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## DISMISSAL

*Into the world, studying the very Word of God; the wisdom we long for...*

### A HUGE "Thank you" to those that served to make worship happen (virtual and in-person) today...

Pastor ..... Rev. Jason Hoerth  
Children's Message ..... Hailey Tanczer  
Elder ..... Bob Remmele

Organist ..... Carol Trumbo  
Reader ..... Jan Remmele  
Acolyte ..... Isabelle Ripak

#### Acknowledgments

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*Taking the cross of grace and peace to form a community of uncommon servants.*