Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

Welcome to the Family!

"And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers."

Second Sunday of the Nativity of Our Lord

January 3, 2021

Pastor's Greeting

Invocation *Matthew 28:19b*

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

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

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may love You and magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Exhortation *1 John 6-10*

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

The Confession of Sins

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

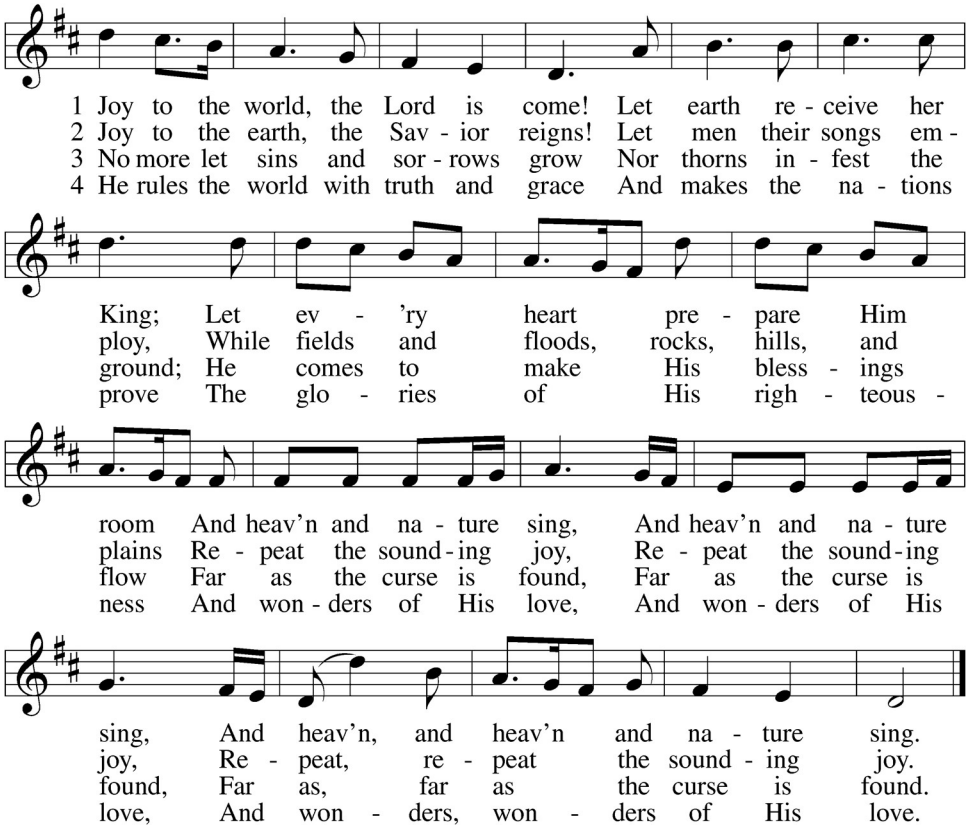
C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

John 20:21

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN — JOY TO THE WORLD — *LSB 387, STS.1-4*

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THE INTROIT

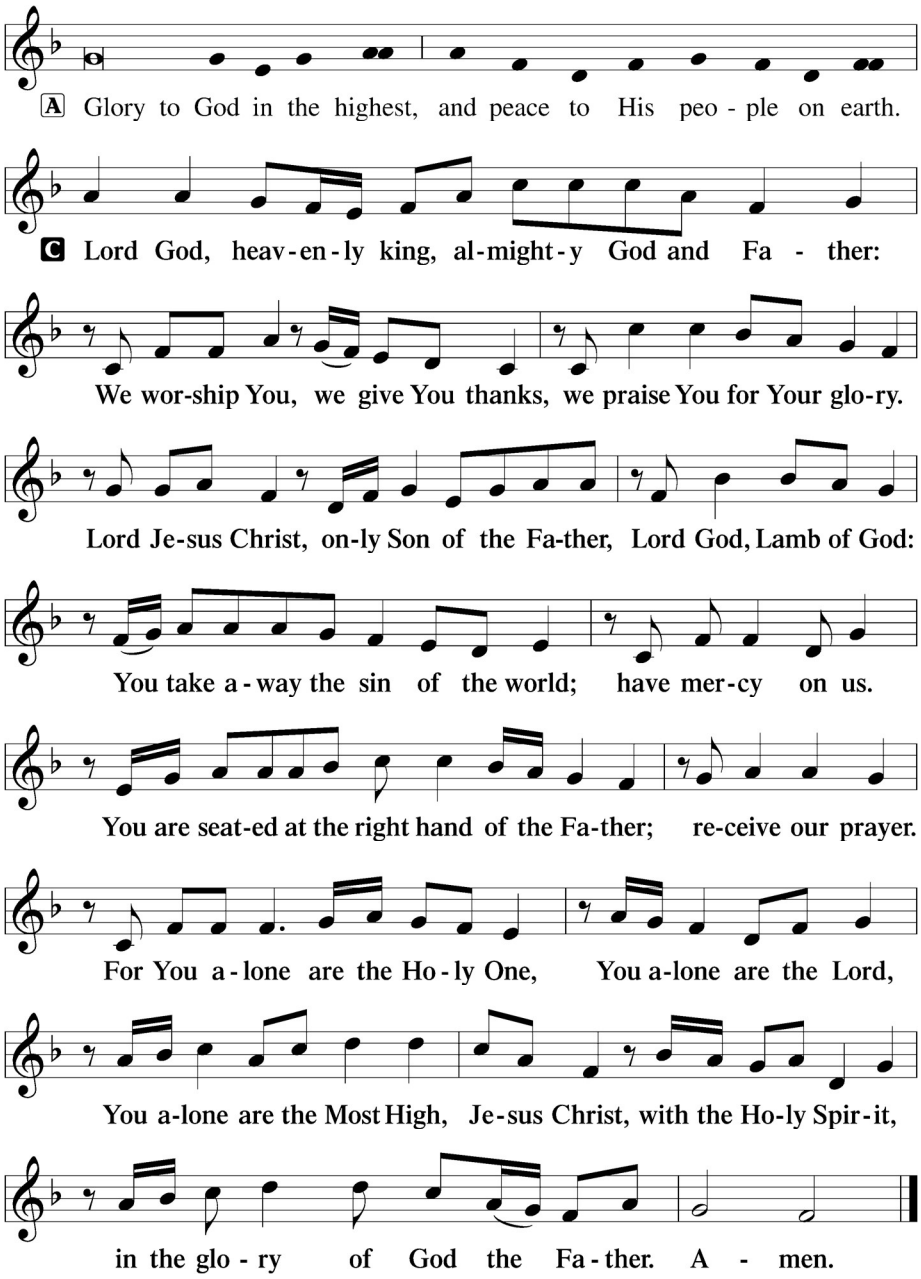
John 1:14; Psalm 147:1, 5, 11-12

P: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to

our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. Great is our LORD, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.

C: But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love. Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

All: 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.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *LSB 154* *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: *Let us pray*: Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

R: A reading of the Old Testament from 1 Kings 3:4-15

R: The king 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.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

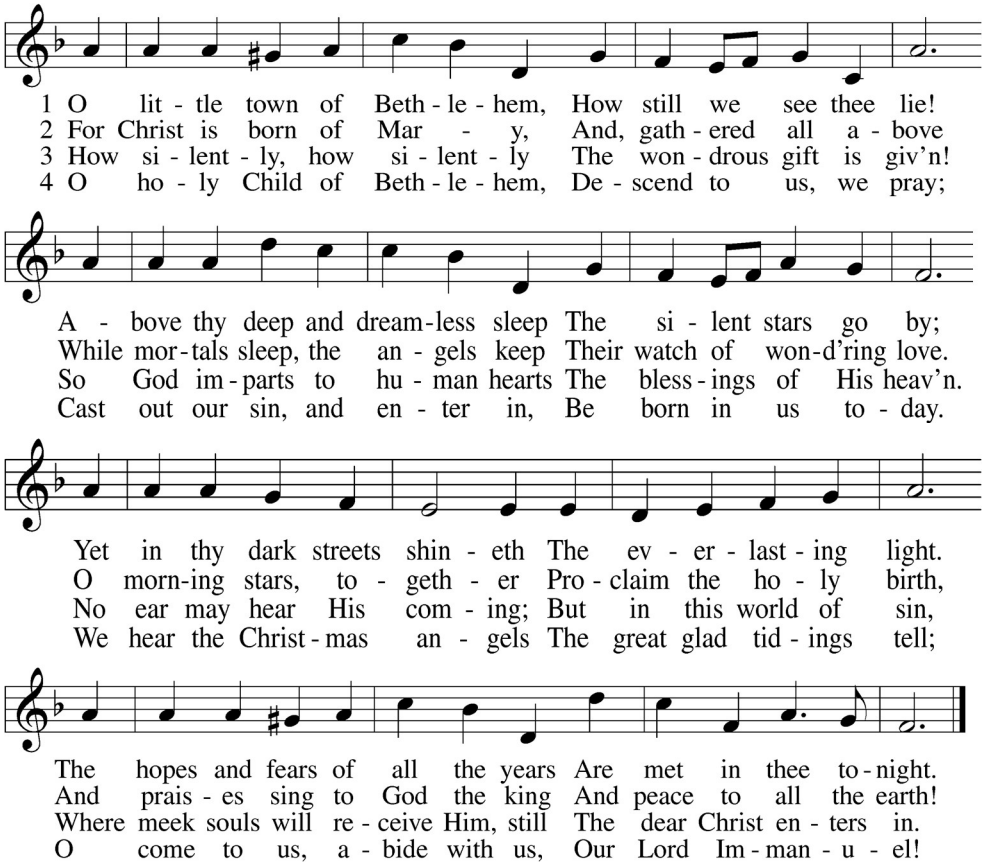
THE GRADUAL

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1

P: To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

HYMN **O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM** ***LSB 361***

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THE EPISTLE READING

R: The Epistle reading is from Ephesians 1:3-14

R: 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.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA VERSE *LSB 156*

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P: A Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 2

C: Glory to You O Lord!

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

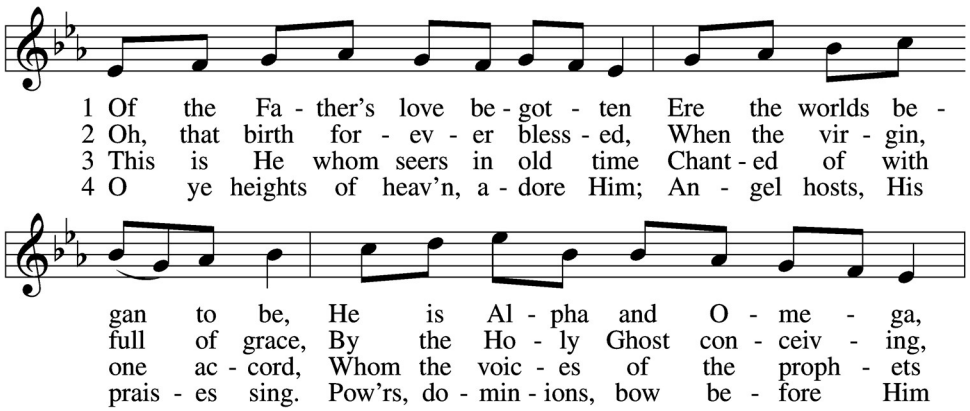
Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the group 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.

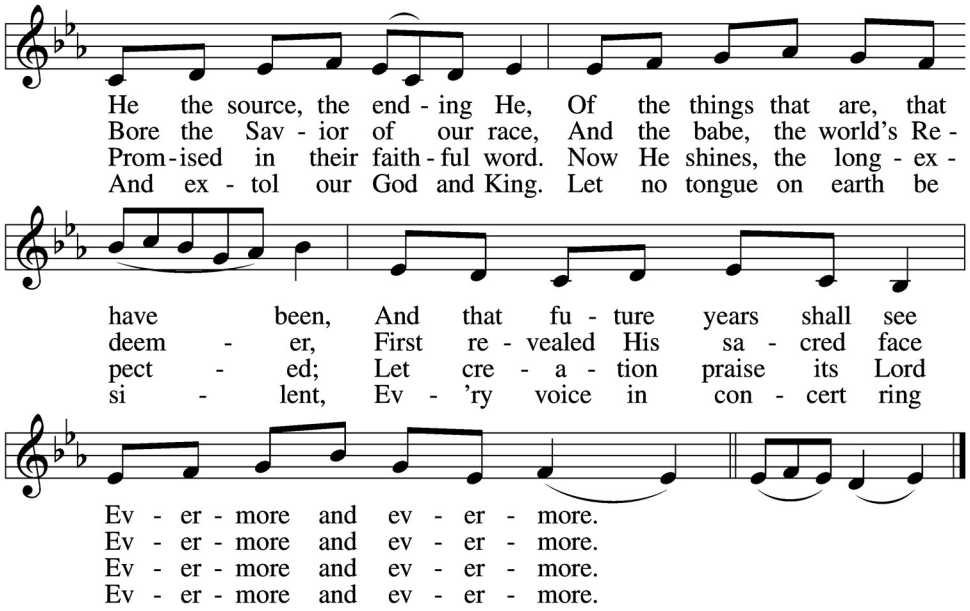
And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You O Christ!

SERMON HYMN OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN *LSB 384, STS.1–4*





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SERMON ***"DID YOU NOT KNOW THAT I MUST BE IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE?"***

THE 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; 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.

OFFERTORY

As we celebrate the holy gifts and blessings God has given to us, please pray concerning your first fruits offering of thanksgiving to our Lord for all His benefits to us.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(Prayer requests may be submitted online at www.FamilyofChristLutheranAZ.org or emailed to Pastor@familyofchristlutheranaz.org or Prayer@familyofchristlutheranaz.org)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: In thanksgiving for the eternal Word made flesh and His dwelling among us, full of grace and truth; that His praise would be extended into all the world; and that many more with us would come to faith and hope in His saving work for all people, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For Christian homes, that following the example of our Lord Jesus, all children would be diligent to learn the Word of God, grow in wisdom and stature, submit to earthly parents, and always be about the heavenly Father's business and in His house, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the leaders and elected officials of our nation, especially for their wisdom that, as God once gave His servant Solomon unsurpassed wisdom to rule Israel, He would also enable them to discern between good and evil and govern our people wisely, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the sick and everyone in any kind of need especially **Gerri, Inge, the Bakers, Karen and Vincent, Lisa, Jane and her family,** _____; for patience and healing according to God's will; in thanksgiving for every blessing and kindness shown to us in Christ; and for those who mourn, **Karen and Vincent, Susie**, _____ _____, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C: Amen.

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

CLOSING COLLECT

P: *Let us pray*: Holy and Almighty God, in receiving Your Word this morning You have blessed us with heavenly wisdom and grace. Cause us by Your Holy Spirit to apply this knowledge to our daily lives. Grant that daily we would prepare for Your Son's return and to never grow weary in doing good. Open our eyes to see the Salvation You have prepared for us, and that our joy in receiving this gift will cause Your praise to be on our lips constantly. Keep us steadfast in this true faith until the day of completion.

All: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS *LSB 218*

P: Let us bless the Lord.

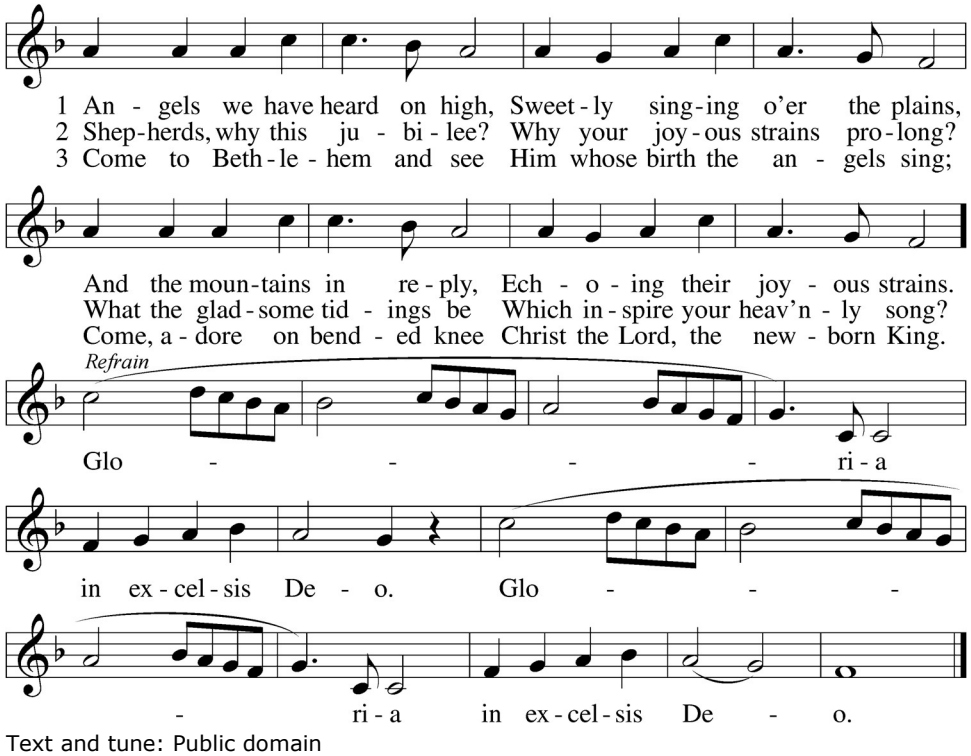
C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *LSB 228*

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

DEPARTING HYMN ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH *LSB 368, STS.1-3*



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Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

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Serving at Family of Christ

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Prayer Requests

Prayer@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Offerings can be mailed to the church or sent via Zelle® directly from your bank to:

familyofchristaz@gmail.com

This Week at Family of Christ

1/3– 1/10

Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship *(with communion)*

No Bible Study today

Wednesday

6:00PM Midweek Prayer Service for Epiphany

Thursday

5:30PM Confirmation Class at the Church

Friday

6:30AM Men's Bible Study in Leviticus

Next Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship

11:00AM Bible Study on Large Catechism

PLEASE NOTE: *Church Services and Bible Studies are currently offered in person and via Zoom. In-person meetings follow all CDC-recommended protocols.*

Pastor is available upon request for: *(call the Church office or Pastor's cell to schedule)*

- ✝ Individual Confession and Absolution
- ✝ Home, hospital or nursing home visits
- ✝ Communion
- ✝ Prayer

Please see the Bulletin Insert (attachment) for information on the LCMS Foundation's ***Lifetime Plan for Giving™*** training sessions on January 19-20.