
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 4, 2026

+ THE ORDER OF MATINS +

LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK — PAGES 219-228

Prayer Before Worship

O Lord, my Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

PRELUDE

RINGING BELL CALLS US TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *LSB 387 Joy to the World*

CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

L: Let us begin in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN.

L: 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.)

L: 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.

L: The Holy Scriptures assure us that Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. Let us go in peace.

C: AMEN.

L: O Lord, open my lips,,

C: AND MY MOUTH WILL DECLARE YOUR PRAISE.

L: Make haste, O God, to deliver me:

C: MAKE HASTE TO HELP ME, O LORD.

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.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST. ALLELUIA.

PSALMODY Venite *O Come, Let Us Sing*

Antiphon

L: Lo, to us the Christ is born.

C: O COME, LET US WORSHIP HIM.

**O COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD,
LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION.
LET US COME INTO HIS PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING,
LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO HIM WITH SONGS OF PRAISE.**

**FOR THE LORD IS A GREAT GOD
AND A GREAT KING ABOVE ALL GODS.
THE DEEP PLACES OF THE EARTH ARE IN HIS HAND;
THE STRENGTH OF THE HILLS IS HIS ALSO.**

**THE SEA IS HIS, FOR HE MADE IT,
AND HIS HAND FORMED THE DRY LAND.
O COME, LET US WORSHIP AND BOW DOWN,
LET US KNEEL BEFORE THE LORD, OUR MAKER.**

**FOR HE IS OUR GOD,
AND WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF HIS PASTURE AND THE SHEEP OF HIS HAND.**

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: Lo, to us the Christ is born.

C: O COME, LET US WORSHIP HIM.

Second Psalm Psalm 119:97-104 (Spoken responsively by verse)

Oh how I love your law!

It is my meditation all the day.

**YOUR COMMANDMENT MAKES ME WISER THAN MY ENEMIES,
FOR IT IS EVER WITH ME.**

I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation.

**I UNDERSTAND MORE THAN THE AGED,
FOR I KEEP YOUR PRECEPTS.**

I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.

**I DO NOT TURN ASIDE FROM YOUR JUST DECREES,
FOR YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME.**

How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

**THROUGH YOUR PRECEPTS I GET UNDERSTANDING;
THEREFORE I HATE EVERY FALSE WAY.**

**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.**

OFFICE HYMN LSB 873 *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 3:4–15

⁴The 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. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” ⁶And 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. ⁷And 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. ⁸And 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. ⁹Give 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?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And 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, ¹²behold, 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. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

¹⁵And 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.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: THANKS BE TO GOD.

EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 1:3–14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, ⁶to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, ⁸which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of His will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In 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, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. ¹³In 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, ¹⁴Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.

L: O Lord, have mercy.

C: THANKS BE TO GOD.

GOSPEL VERSE

Luke 2:40

L: Alleluia. The Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.

C: AND THE FAVOR OF GOD WAS UPON HIM. ALLELUIA.**HOLY GOSPEL***Luke 2:40-52*

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

C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but 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, ⁴⁵and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him. ⁴⁶After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. ⁴⁸And 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." ⁴⁹And He said to them, "**Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?**" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them. ⁵¹And 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.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**RESPONSORY**

L: Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C: LORD, I LOVE THE HABITATION OF YOUR HOUSE AND THE PLACE WHERE YOUR GLORY DWELLS.

L: Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C: LORD, I LOVE THE HABITATION OF YOUR HOUSE AND THE PLACE WHERE YOUR GLORY DWELLS.

L: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: LORD, I LOVE THE HABITATION OF YOUR HOUSE AND THE PLACE WHERE YOUR GLORY DWELLS.

HYMN OF THE DAY *LSB 389 Let All Together Praise Our God*

SERMON

CANTICLE Te Deum (*We Praise You, O God*)

LSB p. 223

**WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD; WE ACKNOWLEDGE YOU TO BE THE LORD.
ALL THE EARTH NOW WORSHIPS YOU, THE FATHER EVERLASTING.
TO YOU ALL ANGELS CRY ALOUD, THE HEAVENS AND ALL THE POW'RS
THEREIN.
TO YOU CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM CONTINUALLY DO CRY:**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD OF SABAOOTH;
HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF THE MAJESTY OF YOUR GLORY.
THE GLORIOUS COMPANY OF THE APOSTLES PRAISE YOU.
THE GOODLY FELLOWSHIP OF THE PROPHETS PRAISE YOU.**

**THE NOBLE ARMY OF MARTYRS PRAISE YOU.
THE HOLY CHURCH THROUGHOUT ALL THE WORLD DOES ACKNOWLEDGE YOU:
THE FATHER OF AN INFINITE MAJESTY; YOUR ADORABLE, TRUE, AND ONLY
SON;
ALSO THE HOLY GHOST, THE COMFORTER.**

**YOU ARE THE KING OF GLORY, O CHRIST;
YOU ARE THE EVERLASTING SON OF THE FATHER.**

**WHEN YOU TOOK UPON YOURSELF TO DELIVER MAN,
YOU HUMBLLED YOURSELF TO BE BORN OF A VIRGIN.
WHEN YOU HAD OVERCOME THE SHARPNESS OF DEATH,
YOU OPENED THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN TO ALL BELIEVERS.**

**YOU SIT AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD
IN THE GLORY OF THE FATHER.
WE BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL COME
TO BE OUR JUDGE.**

**WE THEREFORE PRAY YOU TO HELP YOUR SERVANTS,
WHOM YOU HAVE REDEEMED WITH YOUR PRECIOUS BLOOD.
MAKE THEM TO BE NUMBERED WITH YOUR SAINTS
IN GLORY EVERLASTING.**

**O LORD, SAVE YOUR PEOPLE AND BLESS YOUR HERITAGE.
GOVERN THEM AND LIFT THEM UP FOREVER.
DAY BY DAY WE MAGNIFY YOU.
AND WE WORSHIP YOUR NAME FOREVER AND EVER.**

**GRANT, O LORD, TO KEEP US THIS DAY WITHOUT SIN.
O LORD, HAVE MERCY UPON US, HAVE MERCY UPON US.
O LORD, LET YOUR MERCY BE UPON US, AS OUR TRUST IS IN YOU.
O LORD, IN YOU HAVE I TRUSTED; LET ME NEVER BE CONFOUNDED.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Kyrie

L: Lord, have mercy on us.
C: LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US.
L: Christ, have mercy on us.
C: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY ON US.
L: Lord, have mercy on us
C: LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US.

Lord's Prayer

**C: 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.**

Collects

L: The Lord be with you.
C: AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.

Collect of the Day

L: 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, in Whose Name we pray.

C AMEN.

Collect for Matins

L: Almighty God, heavenly Father, Your mercies are new to us every morning, and You abundantly provide for all our wants of body and soul. Give us we humbly pray, Your Holy Spirit that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for all Your benefits, and cheerfully serve You.

C AMEN.

For Guidance in Our Calling

LSB p. 311

L: Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C AMEN.

For Responsible Citizenship

LSB p.313

L: Lord, keep this nation under Your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Grant that we may choose trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and serve You faithfully in our generation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C AMEN.

L May the Lord hear the prayers we name in our hearts..... Lord, in Your mercy:

C: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Collect for Grace

LSB p.228

L: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN.

BENEDICAMUS

LSB p. 227

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: THANKS BE TO GOD.**BENEDICTION**

L: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C: AMEN.**CLOSING HYMN** *LSB 398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed***SILENT PRAYER***Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.***Worship Leaders:****Elder:** Dr. Joel Eckert**Acknowledgments**

Matins from Lutheran Service Book

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