

Divine Service, Setting Three  
The Second Sunday after Christmas  
4 January 2026

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**OPENING HYMN: ♪“COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING”**

**LSB 686**

- 1 Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
Fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore Thee;  
May I still Thy goodness prove.
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now like a fetter  
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
Prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.
- 4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,  
I shall see Thy lovely face;  
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,  
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;  
Take my ransom'd soul away;  
Send Thine angels soon to carry  
Me to realms of endless day.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–90, alt. Text: Public domain

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

**C Amen.**

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**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.**

## **INTROIT**

**PSALM 147:1, 5, 11-12**

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. 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!

## **GLORIA PATRI**

**C♪ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

## **KYRIE**

**C♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

**C♪ Glory be to God on high and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C♪ And with thy spirit.**

**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.

**G**  Amen.

*Sit*

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**1 KINGS 3:4-15**

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.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## **GRADUAL**

**ISAIAH 9:6; PSALM 98:1A**

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, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

## **EPISTLE**

**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.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## **ALLELUIA**

**C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

**LUKE 2:40–52**

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

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

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 be to Thee, O Christ.

## **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.

## **CATECHETICAL VERSE TO KNOW BY HEART**

### **The Close of the Commandments**

What does God say about all these commandments?

- ☒ He says: "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Exodus 20:5–6)**

What does this mean?

- ☒ God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.**

*Sit*

### **SERMON HYMN: ♪"WITHIN THE FATHER'S HOUSE"**

**LSB 410**

- 1 Within the Father's house  
The Son has found His home,  
And to His temple suddenly  
The Lord of life has come.**
- 2 The doctors of the Law  
Gaze on the wondrous child  
And marvel at His gracious words  
Of wisdom undefiled.**
- 3 Yet not to them is giv'n  
The mighty truth to know,  
To lift the earthly veil that hides  
Incarnate God below.**
- 4 The secret of the Lord  
Escapes each human eye,  
And faithful pond'ring hearts await  
The full epiphany.**
- 5 Lord, visit Thou our souls  
And teach us by Thy grace  
Each dim revealing of Thyself  
With loving awe to trace**
- △ 6 Till we behold Thy face  
And know as we are known  
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Coequal Three in One.**

Text: James R. Woodford, 1820–85, alt. Text: Public domain

### **SERMON: "BLESSED IN CHRIST"**

**EPHESIANS 1:3–14**

By Pastor John Schmidt

## Stand

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**C** Amen.

## Offertory

**C** 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.

## Sit

## OFFERING

*As offerings are brought forward the congregation stands and sings.*

### OFFERING HYMN: *♪*“WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN”

LSB 781 V. 1-2

**1** We give Thee but Thine own, Whate’er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

**2** May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97 Text: Public domain

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up unto the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav’n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

- P** 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.

**G** **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

### **PAX DOMINI**

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**G** **Amen.**

### **AGNUS DEI**

- G** **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

*Sit*

### **DISTRIBUTION**

#### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ♪ "ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY"**

**LSB 376**

- 1** Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2** He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3** For He is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness,  
And He shares in all our gladness.

**4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.**

**5 Not in that poor, lowly stable  
With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned,  
All in white, His praise will sound!**

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt. Text: Public domain

***DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ♪ "OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN"***

***LSB 384***

**1 Of the Father's love begotten  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.**

**2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,  
When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.**

**3 This is He whom seers in old time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.**

**4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;  
Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him  
And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.**



△5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,  
 And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
 Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
 And unending praises be,  
 Honor, glory, and dominion,  
 And eternal victory  
 Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77 Text: Public domain

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ♪ “SPEAK, O LORD, YOUR SERVANT LISTENS”**

**LSB 589**

- 1 Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens,  
 Let Your Word to me come near;  
 Newborn life and spirit give me,  
 Let each promise still my fear.  
 Death’s dread pow’r, its inward strife,  
 Wars against Your Word of life;  
 Fill me, Lord, with love’s strong fervor  
 That I cling to You forever!
  
- 2 Oh, what blessing to be near You  
 And to listen to Your voice;  
 Let me ever love and hear You,  
 Let Your Word be now my choice!  
 Many hardened sinners, Lord,  
 Flee in terror at Your Word;  
 But to all who feel sin’s burden  
 You give words of peace and pardon.
  
- 3 Lord, Your words are waters living  
 When my thirsting spirit pleads.  
 Lord, Your words are bread life-giving;  
 On Your words my spirit feeds.  
 Lord, Your words will be my light  
 Through death’s cold and dreary night;  
 Yes, they are my sword prevailing  
 And my cup of joy unfailing!
  
- 4 As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;  
 Let Your words in me take root.  
 May Your Spirit e’er be near me  
 That I bear abundant fruit.  
 May I daily sing Your praise,  
 From my heart glad anthems raise,  
 Till my highest praise is given  
 In the endless joy of heaven.

Text: Anna Sophia von Hessen-Darmstadt, 1638–83; (sts. 1–3): tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.; (st. 4): tr. Christian Worship, 1993 Text: Public domain

*Stand*

### **NUNC DIMITTIS**

**G** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### **THANKSGIVING**

**P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**G** and His mercy endureth forever.

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

### **SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** And with thy spirit.

**P** Bless we the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

### **BENEDICTION**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**G** Amen, amen, amen.

### **CLOSING HYMN: ♪ "CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER"**

**LSB 725**

- 4 Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2 God His own doth tend and nourish;  
In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them;  
In His mighty arms He bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- 4 Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958 Text: Public domain

## ***SILENT PRAYER***

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

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