

**January 1, 2023**

First Sunday of Christmas; ELW Holy Communion Setting Eight  
Pastor Dan Haugen; Musician Colleen Bowen

### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### **WELCOME**

**GATHERING SONG: ELW#298 'The Bells of Christmas'**

### **GREETING (ELW p. 184)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **O Lord God, you have told all who follow you to forget about ourselves, to take up the burdens of each day and to follow Jesus. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend your people from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9**

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior <sup>9</sup>in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 148**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD! from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD! from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens, old and young together.**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted,

whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**<sup>14</sup>The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

### **SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18**

<sup>10</sup>It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup>saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." <sup>13</sup>And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." <sup>14</sup>Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)**

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

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23**

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." <sup>16</sup>When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: <sup>18</sup>"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." <sup>19</sup>When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup>"Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON: Pastor Dan**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: ACS#908 'In a Far Off Place, Jesus Comes'**

- 1 In a far-off place, Jesus comes to earth. Sheep and cattle grace the site. As the angel songs begin, like the whisper of the wind, nature's hope awakes again; Jesus comes.
- 2 For the poor in heart, Jesus comes to earth. Humble shepherds start the news. For each homeless infant born, for the meek and those who mourn, for the weary and the worn, Jesus comes.
- 3 In our deepest night, Jesus comes to earth: radiant star to light our way. Summer's heat or winter's chill, with a warm and loving will, to a world that needs him still, Jesus comes.

#### **APOSTLE'S CREED (ELW p. 189)**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the world in which we live. May we, your children faithfully bear witness to all you have done through Jesus whose humble entrance into this world we celebrate today. Help us discover again Jesus' Commission given His followers; to make disciples, baptize and teach even as He has done that we also might share the Good News our world so deeply needs. [God of grace, **hear our prayer**]

. . .

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **Amen.**

#### **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

#### **OFFERING HYMN: ELW#294 'In the Bleak Midwinter'**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. **Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. Let us live humbly, and shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the

God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 190) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 191)**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray. **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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION MUSIC: Instrumental**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. **We give you thanks almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward You, and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**(Sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**SENDING SONG: ELW#290 'Go Tell It on the Mountain'**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**