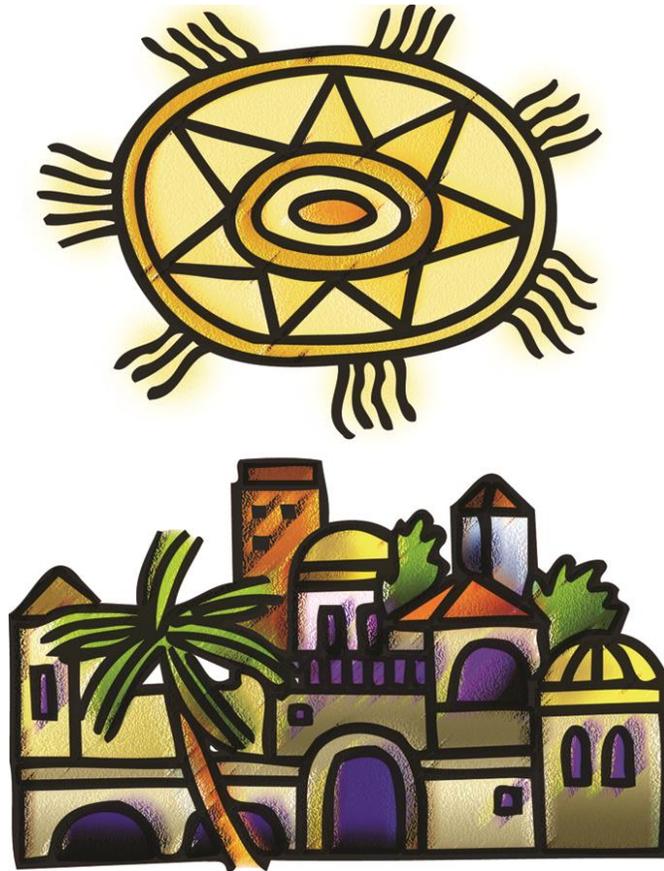


St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran church in America (ELCA)



Second Sunday of Christmas

Service of the Word

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

January 3, 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran church in America (ELCA)

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ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

PRELUDE

I wonder as I wander—Rachel Chapin
(Appalachian folk hymn, setting for flute & piano)

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did
come for to die—
for poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I—I wonder as I wander, out
under the sky.*

*When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow's stall, came wise men and
farmers and shepherds and all,
and high from the heavens a star's light did fall; the promise of the
ages it then did recall.*

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C And also with you.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Lisa Wackler

Today's other readings are:

Psalm 147:12-20

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion.

Ephesians 1:3-14

The will of God made known in Christ.

READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,

and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

John 1:10-18

P The Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and

truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Andrea Walker

LORD’S PRAYER

P Let us pray together the prayer our Savior taught us:

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Bright and glorious is the sky—Wilbur Held
(Danish hymn, setting for flute & keyboard)

*Bright and glorious is the sky, radiant are the heavens high
where the golden stars are shining, all their rays to earth inclining
beckon us to heav’n above, beckon us to heav’n above.*

*And this star, as bright as day, that will never lead astray
with its message so appealing, is the word of God, revealing
Christ, the way, the truth, the life, Christ, the way, the truth, the life.*