

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Dec. 27 '21-Jan. 1 '22

Mon Isaiah 9:2-7 The Holy Spirit put Jesus into this prophecy as a great Light. God showed Light at the end of the tunnel for huddled cave-dwellers; He opened the shutters of His lighthouse beacon (3) upon eyes that were not used to such brightness; some of them thrilled at the sight of God's Light (3) because a Child was born who is incomparably bright (6-7).

Tues Luke 2:1-20 God's plan of salvation was served by the Roman Empire for Jesus' arrival (1-5), and humble folk served, too (5-8). An angel explained what God was doing (8-10), God's choir came to town (14), and local shepherds hurried to share the good news (17), while Mary kept all things and pondered them in her heart. Let us return home with these blessings!

Wed John 1:1-5 Christmas is a world-changer, for Almighty God bonded Himself to humanity (1-3), depositing His gifts of Life and Light in our hearts. We humans need enlightenment because we belong to the race of cave-dwellers with poor eyesight. God not only improves our spiritual eyesight by shining in our hearts but He also chases darkness into the shadows.

Thurs Exodus 33:18-23, 34:5-7 When God allows a mortal to see/know Him personally, few have lived to tell about it. Moses lived to tell about it because God wanted Moses to reveal/proclaim Himself to others. God's character is *goodness*, His attitude *gracious*, His heart *compassionate*—all of which add up to God's *glory*. In/with/via Jesus God reveals His inner nature: *merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth . . . forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin* (34:6). Praise God!

Fri John 1:9-18 The difference between the *true Light* and other lights is that other lights are flickering, twinkling and wobbling until they flare out because they lack dependable fuel to keep them burning. They are but candles in the windstorm of life, short-lived, burning out to stubs. The true Light stays lit generation after generation, dependable, bright with God's glory, able to *enlighten every human born into a dark world*. God grant it to our world, too!

Sat Romans 8:31-32 *What then shall we say to these things?* Since God has gone out of His way for us, did not spare any expense and effort to reclaim us, put His own Son's life on the line, removed Him **from us** in a cemetery—but then brought Him back to be once again **with us**—alive, fully functional and proactive in our interests, we can (and do) say that God has established His covenant of grace with us, has adopted us as His children, and has reserved places in heaven for us. With God going all out for us and with Jesus back in heaven controlling our destiny, we are facing the new year with renewed confidence in God.

December 26, 2021

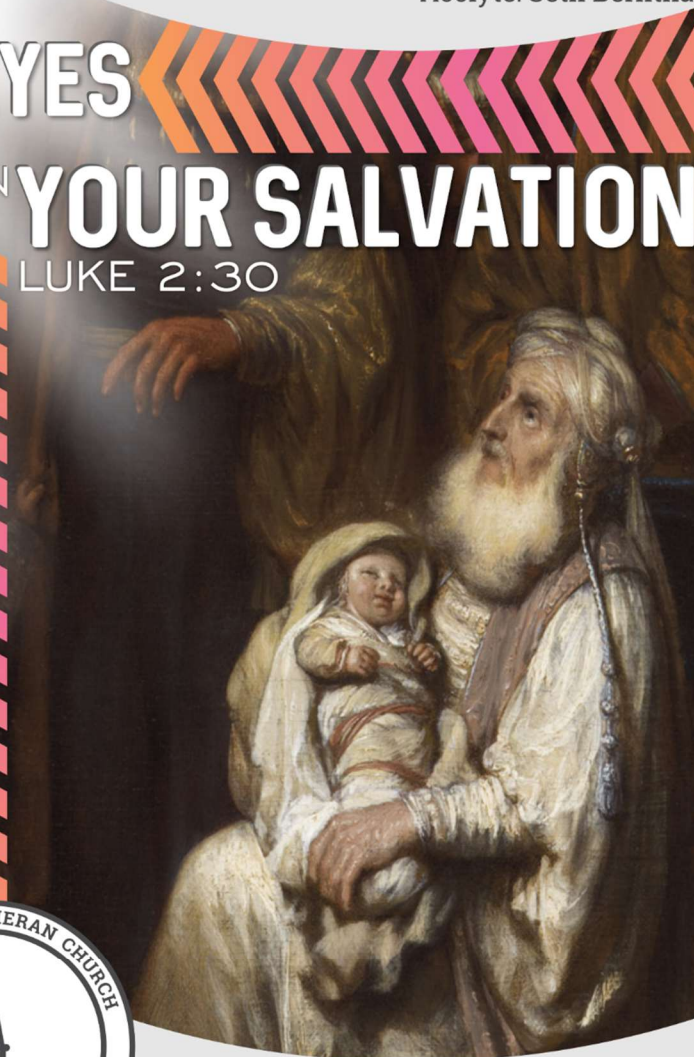
1st Sunday after Christmas

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Paul Seger

Acolyte: Seth Bernthal

**MY EYES
HAVE
SEEN
YOUR SALVATION**
LUKE 2:30



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PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Ps. 111:2-9

² Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. ³ Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. ⁴ He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful. ⁵ He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. ⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations. ⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; ⁸ they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. ⁹ He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

Hymn: TLH #2:1-3, 6-7

"To Thy Temple I Repair"

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C *A - - - men.*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

P Pastor

C Congregation

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. 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 Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.*

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C *O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C *A - - - men.*

Bible Class and Sunday School are currently on hiatus for Christmas/New Years. The current plan, with Pastor Rodebaugh leaving, is to extend that hiatus until further notice.

2022 CLC Mission Helper Trip – Missionary Ohlmann recently returned from Tanzania and reports that there are many new opportunities for Child Evangelism, especially among the Maasai tribes. The pastors of the CLC-Tanzania and CLC-Zambia are very eager and excited to host volunteers again in July of 2022. The deadline for applications is January 10th. **If any young person is interested in going but is concerned about funding, please speak with Pastor Rodebaugh.** Find more information and apply online at: mht.lutheranmissions.org/2022-east-africa



CLC Call News Pastor Paul Krause of Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD and Zion Lutheran Church, Hidewood Township, SD, **has returned** the call to Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA. + Pastor Sam Rodebaugh of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, Florida, **has accepted** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. + Mr. Nathan Wales of Columbia, SC, **has been called** by Grace Lutheran School, Sleepy Eye, MN, to serve as principal and teacher for grades 5 -8, beginning with the 2022 school year. + ILC Professor John Ude **has been called** to be the pastor of Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN + Teacher Ross Kok of Holy Cross Lutheran School, Phoenix, AZ, **is still considering** the call to be the upper grade teacher of Grace Lutheran School, Valentine, NE.

Shut-in/Encouragement List Patti Meno continues to receive regular dialysis and is awaiting a kidney transplant. Johanna Jaehnigen remains mostly housebound. Greg Tincer is recovering from his recent surgeries at home and receiving frequent therapy. Shirley Rosenberry is struggling with severe knee pain which has greatly limited her mobility. Paulette Galstad is doing much better recently with the back pains that have hampered her mobility for so long. Liz Hartmann has returned home to DeLand, where she will be receiving in-home physical therapy.


Last Week: WH – 44

Offering = \$2,655.25

General = \$580.25 | Property Improvement = \$100 | Tuition = \$1925
ILC Scholarship = \$50

Cleaner (1/1) Custodio | **Acolyte (1/2):** Maxwell Kuehne

OFFERTORY

- G**  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.


Hymn: TLH #138:1-4

"Thou Light of Gentile Nations"

- OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS -


Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:

OFFERING: TLH #442:2 "Lord of Glory, Who hast Bought Us"

- G**  Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee- Gladly, freely, of Thine own; With the sunshine of Thy goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by Thee, at length believe That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- 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 give you His peace.
- G**  Amen, amen, a – men.

HYMN: TLH #585

"I Fall Asleep in Jesus' Wounds"

✠ Announcements ✠

Thank you to all the children for presenting the Christmas Eve service for us. And thank you to everyone else for all their hard work: parents, teachers, our organist, our choir members, and those who donated treats for the kids' bags.

- ✠ **Dec. 26:** Orlando Service 8a
- ✠ **Jan. 2:** Elders' Meeting
- ✠ **Jan. 2:** Special Voters' Mtg.
- ✠ **Jan. 2:** Communion Sunday
- ✠ **Jan. 9:** Orlando Service 8a
- ✠ **Jan. 16:** Council & Trustees
- ✠ **Feb. 6:** Annual Voters' Mtg.

Thank you to the congregation for the very generous Christmas gift to the called workers!

In case you missed it: I accepted the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. My last Sunday here at Immanuel is currently planned to be January 16th.

INTROIT

Ps. 98:1-4; Is. 52:10

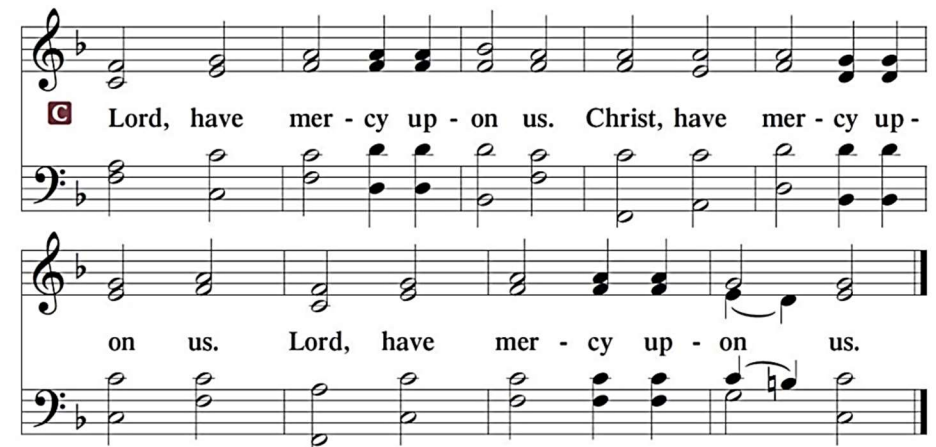
- P** The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
- G** **Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**
- P** The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- G** **He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**
- P** Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!



VERSE OF THE DAY

Luke 2:30,32

- P** Alleluia. My eyes have seen your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia.



G ♪ All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!

P O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G ♪ A - - - men.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15 The LORD said to Moses, ² "Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine." ³ Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. . . . ¹¹ "When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹² you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD's. ¹³ Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴ And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵ For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'

EPISTLE LESSON – Colossians 3:12-17 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord

has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

CONFESSON OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: TLH #89

"To Thee My Heart I Offer"

SERMON – Luke 2:25-32 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

With Christ. . . A Peaceful Departure