

**Second Sunday of Christmas  
January 3, 2021  
Morning Prayer**



**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD: CHRISTMAS**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor,  
at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world,  
and throughout the ages, you proclaim newness of life.  
For your wondrous Word, we thank you, O God.

**We thank you, O God.**

In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh,  
to shine in our world's darkness,  
to speak peace to all people,  
and to welcome us as members of your family.  
For your loving Word, we adore you, O God.

**We adore you, O God.**

Grant us now the gift of your Spirit,  
that held, nourished, and protected by your Word,  
we may live as your children,  
bearing your goodness throughout the world.  
For your powerful Word, we praise you, O God.

**We praise you, O God.**

All glory to you, holy God,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

Many and Great, O God  
*Wakantanka taku nitawa*



Wa - kan-tan - ka ta - ku ni - ta - wa tan - ka - ya  
 1 Man - y and great, O God, are your works, mak - er of  
 2 Grant un - to us com - mu - nion with you, O Star - a -



qa o - ta. Ma - hpi - ya kin e - ya - hna - ke ca,  
 earth and sky. Your hands have set the heav'ns with stars;  
 bid - ing One. Come un - to us and dwell with us;



ma - ka kin he du - o - wan - ca. Mni - o - wan  
 your fin-gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at your  
 with you are found the gifts of . . . life. Bless us with



ca - sbe - ya - wan - ke cin, he - na o - ya - ki - hi.  
 word the wa - ters were formed; deep seas o - bey your voice.  
 life that has no . . . end, e - ter - nal life with you.

Text: Joseph R. Renville, 1779–1846; para. Philip Frazier, 1892–1964, alt.  
 Music: LAC QUI PARLE, Dakota tune

**DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY**

O Lord, open my lips,  
 and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**Glory 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.**

**PSALMODY**

The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings.  
**Oh, come, let us worship and praise.**

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.  
**In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.  
**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.  
**O that today you would listen to his voice!**

The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings.  
**Oh, come, let us worship and praise.**

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
**praise your God, O Zion.** *(Ps. 147:12)*

- <sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,  
<sup>13</sup>**who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**  
<sup>14</sup>God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
<sup>15</sup>**God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**  
<sup>16</sup>God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.  
<sup>17</sup>**God scatters hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand against God's cold?**  
<sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.  
<sup>19</sup>**God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.**  
<sup>20</sup>The LORD has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

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

**SONG** – How bright appears the morning star (497)

1 How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing  
2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a  
3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin - ners,

from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;  
pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;  
fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.

O right - ous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and  
the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -  
In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great

Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:  
phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;  
Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.

Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,  
Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it  
A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

draw thou near us; great Em-man-uel, come and hear us.  
 thy sal-va-tion; hear, O hear our sup-pli-ca-tion.  
 Praise be giv-en ev-er-more, by earth and hea-ven.

Woods: William Mason (1811-1873), © Rev. Philip Nicolai (1856-1909)

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## READINGS

### First 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.*

<sup>7</sup>Thus 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."

<sup>8</sup>See, 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.

<sup>9</sup>With 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.

<sup>10</sup>Hear 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."

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

<sup>12</sup>They 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.  
<sup>13</sup>Then 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.  
<sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

## **Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14**

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

<sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

## **Gospel: John 1:1-18**

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

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

<sup>14</sup>And 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. <sup>15</sup>(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.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

SERMON – The Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy

HYMN OF THE DAY – What child is this (115)

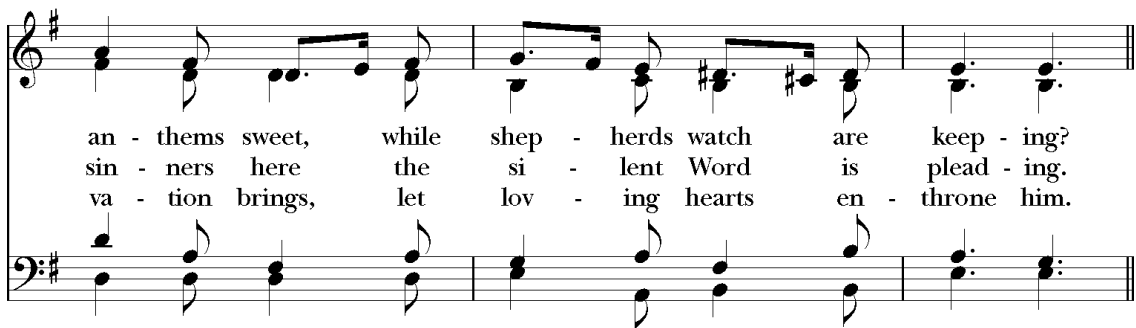
*Unison or harmony*



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,



Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for  
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -



an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

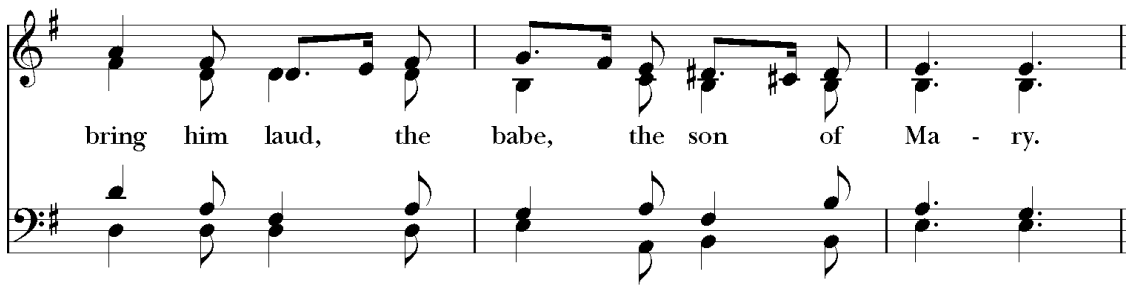
*Refrain*



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds



guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to



Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,  
**but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**

## **GOSPEL CANTICLE**

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets he promised of old  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us.**

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
to give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God,  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Glory 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**

## **PRAYERS**

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

Let us pray.



*A brief silence for prayer follows each petition.*

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . .

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .

for the gifts of relationship with others . . .

for the communion of faith in your church . . .

*Other thanksgivings may be added.*

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

for those who govern nations of the world . . .

for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .

for all who work for peace and international harmony . . .

for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . .

for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .

*Other intercessions may be added.*

Almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome in adversity. In all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O 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.

**Amen.**

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our life and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

# BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day ✚ through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

Almighty God bless us and direct our days and our deeds in peace. **Amen.**

## Song – On this day earth shall ring (92)

*Introduction*



1 On this day earth shall ring  
2 His the doom, ours the mirth;  
3 God's bright star, o'er his head,  
4 On this day an - gels sing;



with the song child - ren sing to the Lord, Christ our King,  
when he came down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth;  
Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,  
with their song earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, hea - ven's King,



born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.  
ox and ass be - side him from the cold would hide him.  
lay their gifts be - fore him, praise him and a - dore him.  
born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

*Refrain*



Id - e - o - o - o, Id - e - o - o - o,



Id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

*"Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!" is Latin for "Therefore, glory to God in the highest!"*

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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