

Date: 01/03/26 Season: CHRISTMAS 2 (WHITE)

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## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit Calls us together as the people of God.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

In celebration of our baptism, we worship  
In the name of God: Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

**Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,  
let us confess our sin.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Reconciling God,  
we yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.  
We confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;  
we have not always recognized  
your presence among us;  
we have not always embraced your message of peace.  
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
oppression, and fear.  
We confess our failure to make room  
for those seeking refuge;  
our participation in violent systems  
that harm your innocent ones;  
our reluctance to embody your good news.  
Be born in us today  
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.  
**Amen.****

God's grace upon grace flows over you.  
✝ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.  
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!  
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 853

When Morning Gilds the Skies



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:  
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:  
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known  
4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:  
5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer  
than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round  
sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"  
the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!  
ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.  
Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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**

**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.**

**WORD**

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

**THE FIRST READING FROM JEREMIAH 31:7-14**

**<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 where 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 does 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,**

**The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.**

### **THE SECOND READING FROM EPHESIANS 1:3-14**

**<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.**

**The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL**

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

**The Holy Gospel according to John the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter  
Glory to you, O Lord.**

**[<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 overtake 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 the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Orin W Cummings

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 510

### Word of God, Come Down on Earth



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the  
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.  
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.  
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, sr, b, 1919  
Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673  
Text © James Quinn, sr, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American Agent.

## APOSTLES' CREED

**With the whole church, let us affirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed:**

**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.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

**The Peace of the Lord be with you always.  
And also with you.  
Please share a sign of God's peace with one another.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.**

*A brief silence.*

**O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God.**

**Your mercy is great.**

**You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.**

**Your mercy is great.**

**You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, especially in the faces of all those caught in the grip of war in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and the Americas. Hear us, O God.**

**Your mercy is great.**

**You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day especially Karen Grochowsky, Michael Gunion, Delaney Metzger, Janet Pennel, Jackie Kellie, Steve Moore, Dave Pope, Pastor Mike, Marilyn, Sam Coryell, Sally McCarville, Bruce Whiting, Jim Shoelpple, Gabe Derr, Jacob Russell-Rivera, Juanita Steinbaugh, Andrew Langr, Ray Hollingstad, Mark Krueger, Bob White, Tommy Brewer, and Beverly Carlson. Hear us, O God.**

**Your mercy is great.**

**You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.**

**Your mercy is great.**

**You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died, especially CJ Hankins. Hold them in your glory. Hear us, O God.**

**Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

God is now in flesh appearing.  
Come to the feast of joy!

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Beautiful Savior

838

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!  
robed in flow'rs and bloom - ing spring;  
bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
than all the an - gels in the sky.  
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904  
Music: Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU  
557558

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

ELW 487

### What Feast of Love



1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?  
2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?  
3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?  
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?  
What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv-en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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### TABLE BLESSING

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.  
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts  
the mystery of your presence.  
Move us to discover the wonders of your love  
in the everyday moments of our lives,  
through Christ born in us.  
Amen.

## SENDING

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

### **BLESSING**

The triune God,  
The glorious and mysterious One,  
The Holy Incarnate One,  
And the abiding Comforter,  
✚ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

**ELW 253**

## He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional  
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**Guided by the Gospel, we:**  
**Welcome all to worship;**  
**Make disciples;**  
**Hunger for ministry;**  
**Nurture youth;**  
**Gather resources for growing ministries;**  
**Offer healing and care to all in need.**

## **DISMISSAL**

**Glory to God in the highest!**  
**And peace to God's people on earth!**  
**Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **OFFERING**

*(Please place gifts in the plates as you leave)*

## **POSTLUDE**