

## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 26, 2021

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska, 402-662-3125

Jonathan Jensen, Transitional Minister, 402-768-3665

### Lessons and Carols

Dave Norton

#### Call to Worship

P: Like the shepherds, we come to the stable, uncertain of what we have heard and seen,

**C: longing to hear a word of peace and joy.**

P: Like the wise ones, we have journeys to make, gifts to offer, and hope in our hearts,

**C: that this world can change for the better.**

P: Here on this first Sunday of Christmas we gather to share the light of Christ, a light that shines in the nightfall.

**C: We gather in wonder to share our joy and thanks for new life.**

**Carol: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

**#45(LBW), vv. 1-2**

#### Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,

**All: O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy 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.**

#### Sign of Peace

P: "Even as the heavens opened and angels spoke, the first word they sang was 'Peace.' Even as confused shepherds came from their hills and flocks, uncertain but hopeful, they greeted each other with 'Peace.' In the midst of our Christmas season, we take a moment to greet one another with a word of peace: peace in this place, peace in our homes, peace in this world..." Peace be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

**#41(LBW), vv. 1-3**

**The First Lesson:** Genesis 1:26-2:4

DeeAnn Schmidt

26 Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

<sup>27</sup> So God created humankind in his image,

in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' <sup>29</sup> God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

**Carol: "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"**

**#34(LBW), vv. 1-3**

**The Second Lesson:** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

DeeAnn Schmidt

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow

continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**Carol: "From Heaven Above"**

**#51(LBW), vv. 1-4**

**The Third Lesson:** Luke 1:26-35

Jolene Huls

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.'

**Carol: "My Soul Proclaims with Wonder"**

(tune "When Christmas Morn is Dawning")

**1. My soul proclaims with wonder the greatness of the Lord, rejoicing in God's goodness my spirit is restored. Rejoicing in God's goodness my spirit is restored.**

**2. To me has God shown favor, to one the world thought frail. And every age will echo the angel's first "All hail!" And every age will echo the angel's first "All hail!"**

**The Fourth Lesson:** Luke 2:1-14

Jolene Huls

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

**Carol: "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"**

**#60(LBW), vv. 1-2**

**The Fifth Lesson:** Luke 2:15-20

Susan Frerichs

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary

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treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Carol: "What Child Is This"**

**#40(LBW)**

**The Sixth Lesson:** John 1:1-14

Susan Frerichs

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

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

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

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.

**Carol: "Joy to the World"**

**#39(LBW), vv. 1,2,4**

*Offering & "noisy offering" is received and dedicated.)*

**Prayers of the People**

God of star and stable, you lead us to wonder and to hope. You gather us together to hear your promise of love. As we gather, we offer our concerns and our dreams, our hopes and fears... *(silence for reflection)*

Like the shepherds who sought the stable, we seek your promise of peace. We pray for your people broken by violence, those who live with fear, and those who live without hope. We pray for your courage and peace... *(silence for reflection)*

Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Like the wise ones who dedicated their gifts, we remember those in need. We pray for those who are lonely, hungry, or forgotten; for those who are ill in body and in spirit; for those who are confused or afraid. We pray for your joy and love, for all your people, especially those we remember in our hearts now... *(silence for reflection)*

Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Holy One, you came as a child, offering renewal of spirit and of living.

May our prayers be a new beginning: for healing, truth, and trust.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** It's wonderful to gather as the body of Christ to worship and give thanks to God!

Thanks be to God for all of you here! If you are a visitor, please sign the guest book and feel welcome to come again. You are invited to come downstairs for refreshments and fellowship following worship.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Ray Boevink, Dustin Fritch, Sara Miley, Melvin Dorf, Robert Jurgens, Dora Schoen and our shut-ins.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Tanner Baehr(Dec 27) Ray Lenners, Judy Wagner (Dec 29) Kevin Uecker (Dec. 30) Aubrie Hill(Dec. 31) Anthony Wester (Jan 1)

**SPECIAL HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Ray Lenners who will celebrate his 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday on December 29 God's richest blessings be with you.

**THANK YOU:** Thanks for all the food and monetary gifts you donated to the Community Food Pantry this year. You helped feed many needy families. Your generosity is truly appreciated. Karen Manes, Food Pantry

**DECEMBER TORNADO RELIEF**---If you wish to donate to the Six State December tornado event, Thrivent will amplify your gift, for every \$2.00 you donate through Thrivent's online giving platform, Thrivent will add \$1.00. (Thrivent pays all processing fees so 100% of your donation goes to the cause.) Those wishing to give can go to: [Thrivent.com/diasterresponse](http://Thrivent.com/diasterresponse) and you can choose one of the following response teams: Convoy of Hope -

Springfield, MO, Lutheran Disaster Response- Chicago, IL, or Samaritan's Purse. (the site has a short narrative of each's team action plan).

**SUNMART RECEIPTS:** Thanks to everyone who has been saving their SunMart receipts! SunMart/Spartan Nash Co. supports a fundraising program called "Support Our Schools and Churches." All you have to do is save your SunMart cash register receipt tapes and put them in the box in the Fellowship Hall (or give to a council person). When we have collected \$150,000 in receipt tapes Spartan Nash Company awards us a check for \$1000. We have reached our goal of \$150,000 two times so far and are starting over again with a balance of about \$95,000.00. You can also ask your check-out person if they have any extra receipts. They save the ones that people don't want and give them out – first come, first serve. Thank you to everyone who is helping with this ministry!

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE:** You can find our church website at [www.filleylutheranchurch.com](http://www.filleylutheranchurch.com) or by scanning this QR code:

**BULLETIN ITEMS** are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call or text Britan Meints at (308)-730-0599 or email her at [britanrace@gmail.com](mailto:britanrace@gmail.com)

**BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND** on our website, [filleylutheranchurch.com](http://filleylutheranchurch.com). Bulletins are also being sent out by email to everyone that we have an email address for. If you are not receiving the bulletin by email and would like it, please email Britan at [britanrace@gmail.com](mailto:britanrace@gmail.com) with your email address.

**COMING UP:**

Every Wednesday – BeLoved/Confirmation, 4:00-5:30 p.m. (no class on, Dec. 29)

American Lutheran's Annual Meeting will be held January 16, 2022 immediately after church.

**WORSHIP HELPERS**

Transitional Minister – Pastor Jonathan Jensen, 402-768-3665

Council – Dave Norton-President (402-520-3555), Virgil Jobman-Vice President (402-310-6339), Carol Frerichs-Secretary (402-223-7919), Brenda Hippen-Treasurer (402-688-4466), Linda Searcey-at large (402-223-8237).

Reader: Susan Frerichs

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen

Audio/Video: Brad Frerichs

Accompanist: Sarah Harder;

Fellowship: Sandy Flesner;