

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
305 Livingston St, Filley, NE
Pastor LuRae Hallstrom

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
December 27, 2020

PLEASE MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING.

Parking lot – service can be heard on radio station 107.1 FM. Facebook @ American Lutheran Church - Filley, NE. Financial contributions can be brought to Sunday morning worship or can be forwarded to American Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 66, Filley, NE 68357. You may also do on-line giving at www.filleylutheranchurch.com.

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

We gather together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 148)

P: Praise the Lord!

C: Praise the Lord from the heavens.

P: Praise the Lord in the heights.

C: Praise God all angels. Praise God all host!

P: Kings of the earth and all peoples.

C: Princes and all rulers of the earth!

P: Young men and maidens praise the name of the Lord...

C: For the Lord's name is to be exalted.

P: God's glory is above earth and heaven.

C: Praise the Lord!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: We are still in the 12 days of Christmas but for many the season has passed.

C: We are an anticipatory people.

P: We prepare for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and when they are over we turn to other things.

C: We turn now to the coming of a new calendar year, 2021, and wonder what is ahead.

P: Even as we observe one year passing and another arriving...

C: We hope that the Christmas message will remain in our hearts.

P: If there is any lack of appreciation in me for all the birth of Jesus means...I ask for forgiveness.

C: If we in any way are not different because we have been to the manger we ask for forgiveness.

P: As we look back at a year now passed we confess that we have not always been all we should be as children of God.

C: The Gospel lesson tells of Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus to the temple to give a sacrifice of thanksgiving and devotion.

P: While they were in the temple both Simeon and Anna gave blessings and rejoiced in Jesus' birth as one who would bring redemption to the world.

C: If we are lacking in any way in giving God thanks and praise we ask for forgiveness. We also seek God's blessing. We ask in this moment for forgiveness and grace and strength as we move from one year to another.

P: God has promised to forgive us and to bless us. Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ,

and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

C: You have given the greatest gift of all, your son and our Lord. May we so treasure this gift that our lives will give honor to his name. As we approach a New Year we ask that your grace would bless us and your wisdom lead us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

READING: Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

MESSAGE

Pastor LuRae Hallstrom

HYMN OF THE DAY: "What Child Is This"

(Words printed for meditation/reflection only - no singing.)

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh: Come, peasant king, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

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APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness. Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. For all your saints, we give you thanks. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

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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 in person, in the parking lot and on-line!

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Brian Sasse, Elva Parde, Mindy Jurgens, Betty Leners, Henry & Ann Leners, Delores Baehr, Dustin Fritch, our shut-ins.

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

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to Ray Leners who will celebrate his 88th birthday on December 29. God's richest blessings be with you!

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH has a brand new "Chromebook" for sale, purchased in September. Paid \$299 and would sell for \$275. Contact a council member if interested.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School begins each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and is held from approximately 9:45-10:30 a.m. Classes will be divided between Preschool-1st grade and Second-Fifth grade. We are looking for two teachers for each Sunday and would prefer to have parents of students. **Please sign the sheet in the narthex for the Sundays that you are willing to help.**

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on December 27 and January 3.

HELP NEEDED: We have quilt blocks downstairs on the table in the Fellowship for people who are willing to sew them together. Thank you for your ministry!

CHRISTIAN BOOKS can be found downstairs on tables in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to borrow one or more - there is no rush to return them.

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE: You can find our church website at www.filleylutheranchurch.com or by scanning this QR code:



BULLETIN ITEMS are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call Sandy or email her at smahleris@gmail.com.

BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND on Facebook and on our website, 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 Sandy at smahleris@gmail.com with your email address.

WORSHIP HELPERS:

Council - Norm Flesner, Tanner Schmidt, Carol Frerichs, Dave Norton, Linda Searcey

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen

Audio/Video – Brad Frerichs

Accompanist – Carlyne Wolken