



December 28, 2025 – First Sunday after Christmas

AS WE GATHER

Our reading from Galatians is rather short. It opens, “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Gal. 4:4-5). This stands right in the middle of Paul’s argument to the Galatians. He wants them to know that they are *not* justified by the law, but rather, by faith. As such, they are heirs of the promise, and even heirs of God and sons of God. How does this promise relate to Christmas? After all, we are in the Christmas season. It’s that first line in verse 4: “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman...” Brothers and sisters, when we think about Christmas, we can rejoice. God sent His Son to be born in order to make you and I into children of God, who receive an inheritance from Him as heirs! Thanks be to God!

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 380, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Galatians 4:4–5*

Pastor: When the fullness of time had come,

People: **God sent forth His Son,**

Pastor: born of woman, born under the law,

People: **to redeem those who were under the law.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

People: **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask for Your forgiveness. Deliver me in Your mercy and restore me by Your grace that I amend my sinful life. Bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *Glory to God in the Highest (Music and words in hymnal, LSB 204).*

All: 1. **To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth; Goodwill from God in heaven proclaimed at Jesus' birth! We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing – our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

2. **To You, O sole begotten, the Father's Son, we pray; O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away. Have mercy on us, Jesus; receive our heartfelt cry, where You in pow'r are seated at God's right hand on high.**

3. **For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord. Forever and forever, be worshipped and adored; You with the Holy Spirit alone are Lord Most High, in God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.**

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 63:7–14*

⁷ I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. ⁹ In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰ But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. ¹¹ Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, ¹² who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³ who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴ Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalms 111*

Pastor: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

People: **Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

Pastor: Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

People: **He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

Pastor: He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

People: **He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

Pastor: The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

People: **they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

Pastor: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

People: **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!**

EPISTLE READING *Galatians 4:4–7*

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

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

All: **Alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia.**

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 2:13–23*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the second chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.” ¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he

withdrew to the district of Galilee.²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF THE DAY *LSB 384, "Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

SERMON *"When the fullness of time had come..."*

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

HYMN *LSB 781, "We Give Thee But Thine Own," stanzas 1-2*

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

THE COMMUNION CONFESSION

Pastor: The Lord's Supper is God's gift for Christians who are properly taught. In communion, we want people to receive Christ's body and blood for their good. This means that as you come to the Lord's Table you affirm with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord; and with Lutheran Christians you confess:

People: **I recognize and confess that I am a sinner. I repent of my sins and ask God's forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan, and death. I believe that the risen Christ is truly present in the Sacrament and, that under the form of bread and wine, I receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life. (Augsburg Confession-Article X)**

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 208)*

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, ... in His body and blood.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

All: **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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 210)*

All: 1. **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

2. **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, and grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 618, "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

LSB 725, "Children of the Heavenly Father"

LSB 368, "Angels We Have Heard on High"

SONG OF SIMEON (*Music and words in hymnal, LSB 211*)

- All:**
1. O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav'nly peace, for I have seen the glory of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill, the glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.
 2. All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son, all glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One; for as in the beginning, is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding through all eternity.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. ... now and forever.
People: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
People: Amen.

HYMN *LSB 922, "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.
People: Thanks be to God!

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Service also adapted from Divine Service Setting 4, LSB 203-212.



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of December 28, 2025

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen

Cell: 832-727-3135 daniel.heitshusen@gmail.com Pastor's Day Off; Friday



Family for the Week: Kathy Holle & Homebound Families
First Lutheran, Neosho - Rev. Steve Gilmore

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:
Prayers of Thanksgiving

Prayers for Health and Healing:



Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Bruce Banks – (friend of Teri Ediger)
Becky – (daughter of Diane and Bill Thompson)
Jeannie Bennett – (relative of Teri Ediger – health and healing)
Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)
Treaa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Joyce Campbell – (friend of Wanda Thompson – health and healing)
Bonny Gray – (sister of Cynthia Swoye r[Wolf] – health and healing)
Pastor Hagen – (health and healing)
Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden's granddaughter)
Jeeper Meyer – (health and healing from cancer)

Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel's brother – health and healing)
Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
Joe Pennington – (brother-in-law of Bill Michel – health and healing)
Betty Pinkley – (Cousin Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Billy Schmells – (friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)
LC Stalcup – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)
Tim Tucek – (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
Dayton Wheeler – (grandson of Wanda Thompson – surgery)
Jacquelyn Zimmer – (friend of Edee Chambers – health and healing)

Long Term

Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)
Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)
Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Mary Ann Campbell – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken-hip)
Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)
Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)
Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)
Gary Gardner – (health and healing)
Betty Gordon – (health and healing)

Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)
Robbie Krueger – (friend of Kathy Holle)
Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Mitzie Lorenz – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's sister-in-law – health & healing)
Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)
June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health & healing)

THIS WEEK

Sunday	December 28th	Happy Half Hour – 9:00 am Fellowship – 9:30 am Service with Communion – 10:00 am
Monday	December 29th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Tuesday	December 30th	Pastor on Vacation – until Jan. 8, 2026
Thursday	January 1st	New Years Day
Sunday	January 4th	Happy Half Hour – 9:00 am Fellowship – 9:30 am Service with Communion – 10:00 am
Wednesday	January 7th	No Bible Study
Thursday	January 8th	No Confirmation

Birthdays: Ambrose Sharp-Dec. 29th
Anniversaries: Bobby & Taya Jones-Dec. 31st

December	
28: Bill & Joanne Michel	28: Mitch Littler
January	
04: Charlie & Edee Chambers	04: Mitch Littler
11: Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer	11: Charlie Chambers
18: Rob & Marlo Springer	18: Bill Michel
25: Bill & Joanne Michel	25: David Lampe



Lutheran Witness Magazine: If anyone wishes to receive a copy, please see Charlie Chambers. Please have your name in by December 28th.

Transportation Help Needed: We have a member of the church needing transportation to some doctor appointments. There is an announcement on the bulletin board as to times and locations needed. Please let Pastor Daniel know if you can help. Thanks to all who can help.

Note: Pastor's vacation will be Dec. 30 – Jan. 08.

Sheltering Hope is an organization here in Aurora. They recently voted to form the following committees in 2026 to meet their goals: Jobs committee, Mentorship committee, and Transportation committee. If you are interested in learning more about Sheltering Hope and/or serving on one of the committees, please see Pastor Heitshusen for more details.