

# THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 27, 2020

Worship Focus  
Company's Coming: Enjoying the Company



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# Order of Service for FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

## Service of the Word

Christian Worship, p. 38

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## ✠ Gathering ✠

### OPENING HYMN

78 - O Light of Gentile Nations



1 O Light of Gen - tile na - tions, O  
2 Dear Lord, your ser - vants meet you In  
3 Lord, when life's trou - bles touch us, You  
4 Let us, O Lord, be faith - ful Like



Sav - ior from a - bove, Drawn by your Spir - it's  
ev - 'ry ho - ly place Where your true Word has  
seem to hide your face, And through our tears we  
Sim - eon to the end So that his prayer ex -



lead - ing, We come with joy and love In -  
prom - ised That we should see your face. To -  
of - ten Can scarce - ly sense your grace. Then  
ul - tant May from our hearts as - cend: "O



to your ho - ly tem - ple And wait with  
day you still al - low us Who gath - er  
be our joy and bright - ness, Our cheer in  
Lord, now let your ser - vant De - part in



rev - 'rent mind As Sim - eon once had  
 round you here In arms of faith to  
 pain and loss, Our sun in dark - est  
 peace, I pray, Since I have seen my



wait - ed His God and Lord to find.  
 hold you As did that a - ged seer.  
 ter - ror, The glo - ry round our cross.  
 Sav - ior And here be - held his day.”

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
 Tune: MUNICH (76 76 D) *Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch*, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693, alt.

## INVOCATION

**Minister** The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Congregation** And also with you.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**M** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**M** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C** **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M** Let us pray. Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## ✘ The Word ✘

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 45:20-25

*Isaiah understood the significance of the Christ-child – he is not some decoration to be put away now that the celebration is over; he is God made man to save us.*

ISAIAH 45:20 “Gather together and come;  
assemble, you fugitives from the nations.  
Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood,  
who pray to gods that cannot save.  
<sup>21</sup> Declare what is to be, present it—  
let them take counsel together.  
Who foretold this long ago,  
who declared it from the distant past?  
Was it not I, the LORD ?  
And there is no God apart from me,  
a righteous God and a Savior;  
there is none but me.  
<sup>22</sup> “Turn to me and be saved,  
all you ends of the earth;  
for I am God, and there is no other.  
<sup>23</sup> By myself I have sworn,  
my mouth has uttered in all integrity  
a word that will not be revoked:  
Before me every knee will bow;  
by me every tongue will swear.  
<sup>24</sup> They will say of me, ‘In the LORD alone  
are righteousness and strength.’ ”  
All who have raged against him  
will come to him and be put to shame.  
<sup>25</sup> But in the LORD all the descendants of Israel  
will be found righteous and will exult.

## SECOND LESSON

## Colossians 3:12-17

*The celebration is just beginning. The birth of our Savior gives us reason to live and worship as Paul describes.*

COLOSSIANS 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## GOSPEL

## Luke 2:25-40

*Many in the Temple passed by the two peasants with their baby. But two people understood his eternal significance.*

LUKE 2:25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup>“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup>For my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the sight of all people,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup>so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup>Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!



## HYMN OF THE DAY

### 41 - Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his  
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's  
4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our  
5 He serves that I a lord may be— A great ex -



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And  
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who  
flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His  
change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To



gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.  
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.  
maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.  
help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door  
Of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no more;  
To God our thanks we pay,  
To God our thanks we pay.

✠ **Sermon** ✠

Luke 2:25-32

**Company's Coming... Enjoying the Company**

*Sermon notes:*

**CONFESSION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT and MUSICAL OFFERTORY**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

*Brief silence*

For grace to rejoice in Christ's blessed incarnation; in thankfulness that, in the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem us and give us the adoption as Your sons and heirs; and to grant us a glad new year, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the families of all Christians, that the heavenly Father from whom all fatherhood is named would bless them with His promises; for parents, that they would be diligent and take delight in their work; for children, that by God's favor they would grow in strength and wisdom; and for all widows, orphans and broken families, that God would comfort them with His mercy and give them joy in the redemption won for them in Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who make, administer and judge our laws, that they may serve faithfully in their tasks, according to Your good pleasure, for the benefit of our people, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the lonely, that they would be comforted with the sure and certain knowledge that God will never forsake them, and that within the household of faith they might find family, friends and loving companionship, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick and suffering, especially those who desire our prayers [...], that according to God's gracious will, they would be healed; and for those who mourn, [*especially....*] that God would fill their hearts with the certain hope of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**



1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him; See the long - ex -  
 2 In the arms of her who bore him, Vir - gin pure, be -  
 3 Je - sus, by your pres - en - ta - tion, You who did for



pect - ed Lord. An - cient proph - ets had fore - told him;  
 hold him lie, While his a - ged saints a - dore him  
 us en - dure, Let us see your great sal - va - tion,



God has now ful - filled his Word. Now to praise him,  
 Ere in faith and hope they die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Seal us with your prom - ise sure, And pre - sent us



his re - deem - ed Shall break forth with one ac - cord.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! See th' in - car - nate God most high!  
 in your glo - ry To your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.

Text: Henry J. Pye, c. 1825–1903, alt.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY (87 87 87) Henry Purcell, 1659–95, adapt.

✘ Sending ✘

PRAYER

**M** Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

# BLESSING

**M** Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

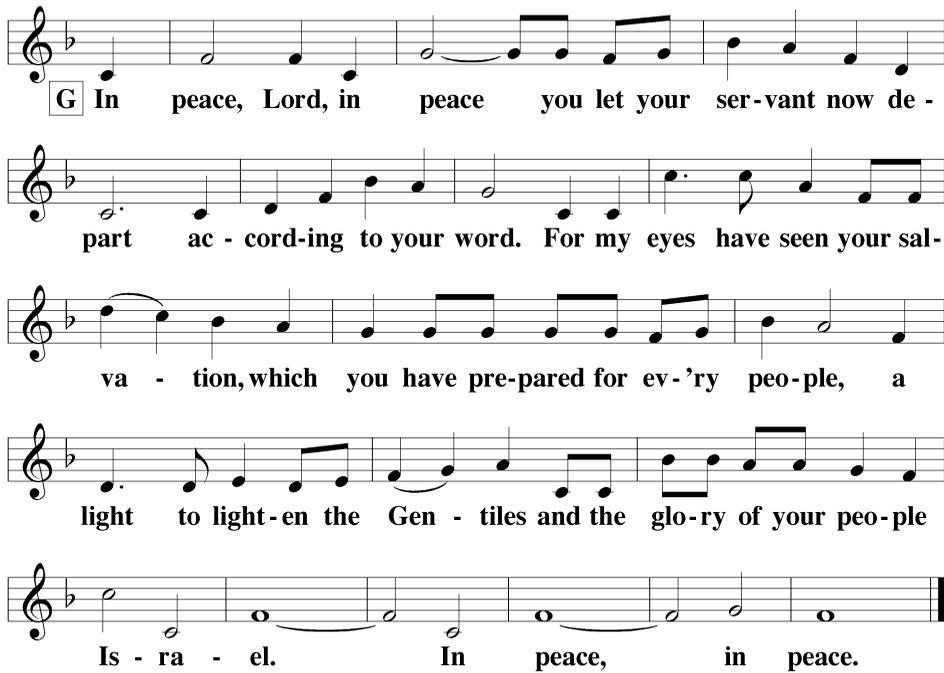
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



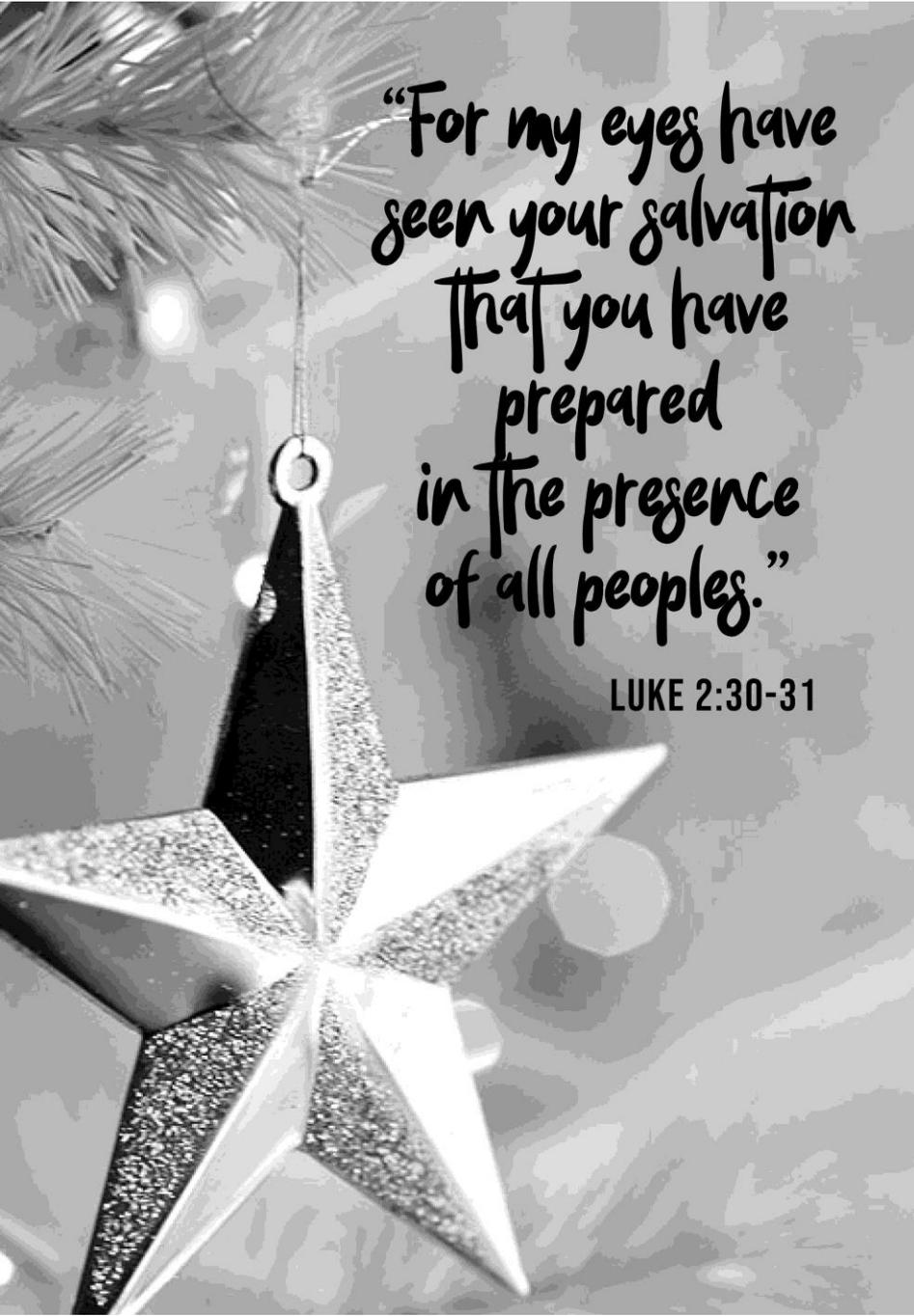
C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

# CLOSING HYMN

## The Song of Simeon

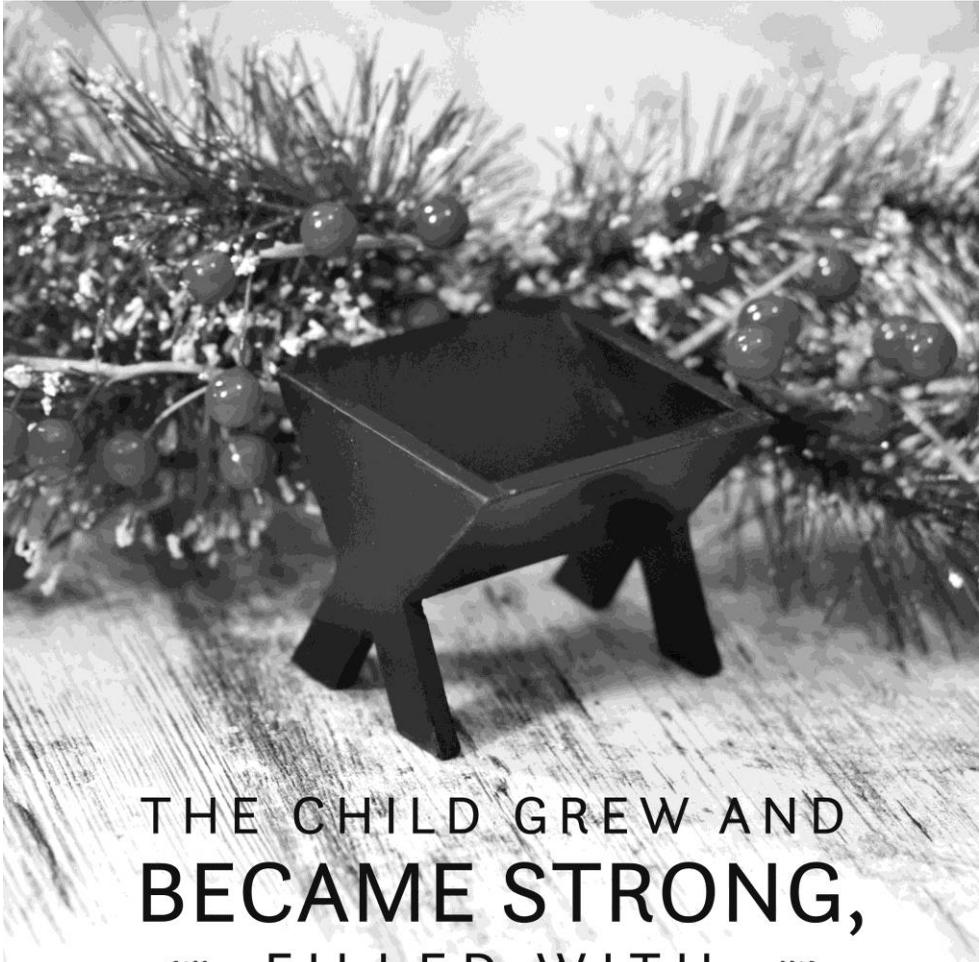


**G** In peace, Lord, in peace you let your ser-vant now de -  
part ac - cord-ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your sal-  
va - tion, which you have pre-pared for ev-'ry peo-ple, a  
light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo-ry of your peo-ple  
Is - ra - el. In peace, in peace.



“For my eyes have  
seen your salvation  
that you have  
prepared  
in the presence  
of all peoples.”

LUKE 2:30-31



THE CHILD GREW AND  
BECAME STRONG,  
FILLED WITH  
**WISDOM;**  
AND THE FAVOR OF GOD  
WAS UPON HIM.

Luke 2:40