

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY OBSERVANCE**

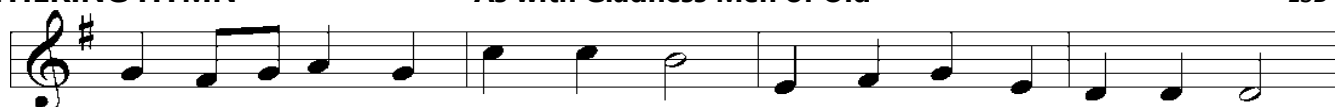
January 3, 2021 – 9AM



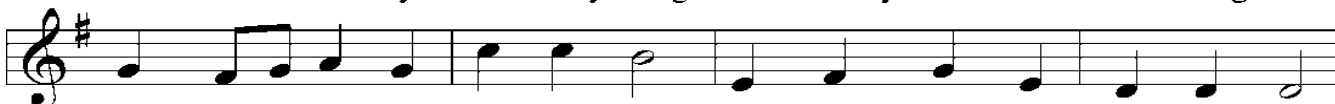
**AS WE GATHER** Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year in Christ! This year, because of the way the days of the week fall immediately after Christmas Day, we are blessed by having not one but two Sundays after Christmas! Through the Holy Gospel today, set for this Second Sunday after Christmas, we hear about our Lord Jesus as a young adolescent astonishing the temple leaders and elders in His understanding of scripture and the wisdom He imparted. All who were in the temple marveled about Him. Jesus' time in the Lord's house today shows us that He is a Master Teacher, and all are blessed in hearing Him, the Living Word of God. We too, as we gather together to listen to His Word, are blessed as well. We first start though, our worship with Isaiah's Epiphany prophecy mentioning that Kings will come to honor our Lord Jesus with precious gifts while He was yet no bigger than a toddler. Our Epiphany hymns also remind us of our Lord being the true light of the world making our hearts glad in His saving love. The Lord bless you this New Year and your Christmas and Epiphany.

**† IN DOMINE JESU †**

(In the Name of Jesus)

**PRELUDE****WELCOME** "This is the Day that the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it." *Ps. 118:24***GATHERING HYMN** "As with Gladness Men of Old" *LSB 397*

1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,  
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,  
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;  
 5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;  
 There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;  
 So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,  
 And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last  
 Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.  
 So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.  
 All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.  
 Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.  
 There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

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**INVOCATION**P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.****OPENING SENTENCES***Isaiah 60:1-3, 6*P: <sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come,**C: and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.**P: <sup>2</sup>For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;**C: but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.**

P: <sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light,

**C: and kings to the brightness of your rising.**

P: <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;

**C: all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious and heavenly Father.

**C: Eternal God, we confess that by nature we are sinful people. We have transgressed Your Law in many ways, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not always been wise in our thinking and our speaking and our actions. Our motives and thoughts have not always been pure. We deserve Your punishment now and for eternity. O God, in Your mercy forgive our sin and restore us to a full and joyful relationship with You, through the merits of Jesus, our Lord. Direct all that we do by Your Holy Spirit that in the year now beginning we joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your Commandments as Your redeemed people.**

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.

**C: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together, **Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*1 Kings 3:4-15*

*(Solomon prays to God for the gift of wisdom.)*

<sup>4</sup>The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" <sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup>And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

<sup>15</sup>And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

*Ephesians 1:3-14*

*(We are gifted with God's spiritual blessings.)*

<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>even as he chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup>He predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed 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>which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup>In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## VERSE

*Luke 2:40*

**Alleluia. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him. Alleluia.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 2:40-52*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the second chapter **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(The boy Jesus is found in the temple at Jerusalem.)*

<sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. <sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**"Within the Father's House"**

*LSB 410 (Tune LSB 331 St. Thomas)*

- 1 Within the Father's house The Son has found His home,  
And to His temple suddenly The Lord of life has come.**
- 2 The doctors of the Law Gaze on the wondrous child  
And marvel at His gracious words Of wisdom undefiled.**

- 3 Yet not to them is giv'n The mighty truth to know,  
To lift the earthly veil that hides Incarnate God below.
- 4 The secret of the Lord Escapes each human eye,  
And faithful pond'ring hearts await The full epiphany.
- 5 Lord, visit Thou our souls And teach us by Thy grace  
Each dim revealing of Thyself With loving awe to trace
- 6 Till we behold Thy face And know as we are known  
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Coequal Three in One.

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## SERMON "The Lavish Riches of God's Grace in All Wisdom and Insight For You in 2021"

<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>which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth. *Eph 1:7-10*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *after petitions, Pastor prays "Lord in your mercy" please pray, "Hear our prayer")*

*(after all the petitions have been prayed, we commend all the prayers with these words)*

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## † CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER †

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** P: In preparation for the Lord's supper, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us: **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 PREPARATION** *(please take your communion vessel in hand for our Lord's Words of Institution)*

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and after giving thanks, He broke it and gave it to His 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 after supper, He took the cup, and after giving thanks He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is My † blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also, with you.**

**ONE BODY IN CHRIST** *(As brothers and sisters in Christ, as one body we communion with the invitation of the following words)*

P: Take and eat this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ given into death for all your sin.

P: Take and drink this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sin.

P: The body and blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast, in the one true faith, to life everlasting. Go in peace, joy, love and forgiveness. Amen.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

P: Let us pray together, **Blessed are You, almighty God, for by You, we have been fed and nourished with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Give us faith to rejoice in His salvation, knowing that what He has done for us will last for time and eternity. Grant us Your abiding peace each day of our lives as we await Your eternal kingdom. In the name of Jesus, our hope and comfort, we pray. Amen.**

**OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

P: 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 His favor and † give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN OF SENDING**

**“The People That in Darkness Sat”**

*LSB 412*



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious  
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring  
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a  
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In  
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their  
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All  
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.  
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.  
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.  
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

**5. His righteous government and pow'r Shall over all extend;**

**On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.**

**6. Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,**

**Who with the Father ever Art and Holy Spirit, One, and Holy Spirit, One.**

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**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace and join Jesus on His mission! **C: Amen! We will! Amen!**

**† SOLI DEO GLORIA †**

(To God be the Glory)

**THE POSTLUDE**

# HOLY CROSS HAPPENINGS

January 3 – January 10, 2021

**WELCOME GUESTS AND MEMBERS!** Welcome to the Lord's House. God bless you as hear the Good News today of His unconditional love! Jesus promised wherever two or three are gathered in His name, His presence is there. Jesus is here! We pray and know He will bless you with faith, hope, and love for your daily life through His Word and Spirit! If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to one of our ushers or greeters.

**Saturday, January 9, 2021** - We need volunteers to take down the Christmas decorations starting at 8:30 to 11:30 and then we will be cleaning the church after that. Please join us to make things get done quicker. Thank you.

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Jan. 3 we will not be having SS classes for Children and Youth during the holiday break. See you back on Jan. 10! Thanks, and blessings on your Christmas-time! You are in my prayers for health and renewal in mind, body and spirit during these days. Vivian

**Adult Sunday Morning Bible Class** - The OT book of Nahum led by Rev. Robert Nowak will resume today. 10:00 back of the sanctuary. Happy New Year!

**Informal prayer time** - We will continue the informal time of prayer at Holy Cross on Wednesday evenings starting January 6, 2021.

**The Sanctuary Course** - Our "Sanctuary" Class on Mental Health, (Wellness and Illness), meets today at 11 AM – 12 noon.

**2021 Church Envelopes** - 2021 Offering envelopes are ready for everyone to pick up. They are on the administrative assistant's counter. Feel free to pick up for all members in your family. Thank you for your help.

**McKenna visiting Update** - If interested in visiting Lohart, please call McKenna Crossing's office. Currently they have visiting on Thursday by appointment, two persons per week. Pastor and Janean visit on Wednesday however, currently because of Covid restrictions they are the only ones to visit on Wednesdays.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated today. Our belief and practice is Confessional. Jesus clearly teaches He is truly present in His supper in the bread and wine. We receive miraculously, in the gift of faith, His true body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. If this is your confession and you have been baptized and confirmed in our church body, please commune with us. If you have questions about communing, please wait to commune until receiving instruction in one of our communion classes. Thank you.

## SERVING TODAY - SUNDAY JANUARY 3, 2021 9:00 am

<b>Elder/Communion Helper:</b>	Jon Dobberstein
<b>Lector:</b>	Paige Westrum
<b>Ushers:</b>	Jason Kruse
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Colin Kruse
<b>AV:</b>	Jason Eickhoff
<b>Counters:</b>	Carol Albrecht & Pam Hunter

**SERVING NEXT WEEK – SUNDAY JANUARY 10, 2021 9:00 am**

**Elder/Communion Helper:** Brit Weimer  
**Lector:** Pam Hunter  
**Ushers:** Denny Case  
**Acolyte:** Blake Dobberstein  
**AV:** Vivian Jobst  
**Offering Counters:** Denny Case & Doug Schulze

**CHURCH OFFICE REPORTS**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

Contributions needed/month (General Fund): \$21,982.50  
Contributions received in November \$21,361.57

**CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY ATTENDANCE**

Dec. 24, 4 PM Worship: 49 7 PM Worship: 39 Total: 88  
Dec. 25, 9 AM Worship: 23

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020 ATTENDANCE**

Worship:	26	Drive-up Communion:	6
Communion:	26	Sanctuary Class:	5
Zoom:	17		

**THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS**

**Sun. January 3 Second Sunday after Christmas & Epiphany Observance**  
9:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion also via Zoom  
10:00 am Nahum Bible Study  
10:15 am-10:45 Drive-Up Communion  
11:00 am "Sanctuary" Class on Mental Health, Wellness & Illness Session 7

**Mon. January 4**  
5:30 pm Elder/Leader Weekly Meeting Zoom

**Tue. January 5**  
8:00 am Men's Bible Study

**Wed. January 6 The Epiphany – Magi Come to Worship Jesus**  
12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due  
7:00 pm Informal Time of Prayer

**Thu. January 7**

**Fri. January 8**

**Sat. January 9**  
8:30 am Christmas Decoration take Down and Church Cleaning

**Sun. January 10 First Sunday of Epiphany – The Baptism of Our Lord**  
9:00 am Worship W/ Holy Communion also via Zoom  
10:00 am-11am "Nahum" Bible Study in back of the Sanctuary  
10:15 am-10:45 Drive-Up Communion  
11:00–12 Noon "Sanctuary" Class on Mental Health, Wellness & Illness Session 8



14085 Pike Lake Trail NE, Prior Lake, MN 55372 Phone: (952) 445-1779  
Music & Choir Director: Mui Cheng: Praise Music Director: Becca Tutewohl  
Office Ministry Assistants: Meg Batchelder and Dorene Oak  
Pastor James Jobst: (612) 615-2939