

Sunday, January 3, 2016

Second Sunday After Christmas

**FIRST LESSON. Jeremiah 31:7-14**

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

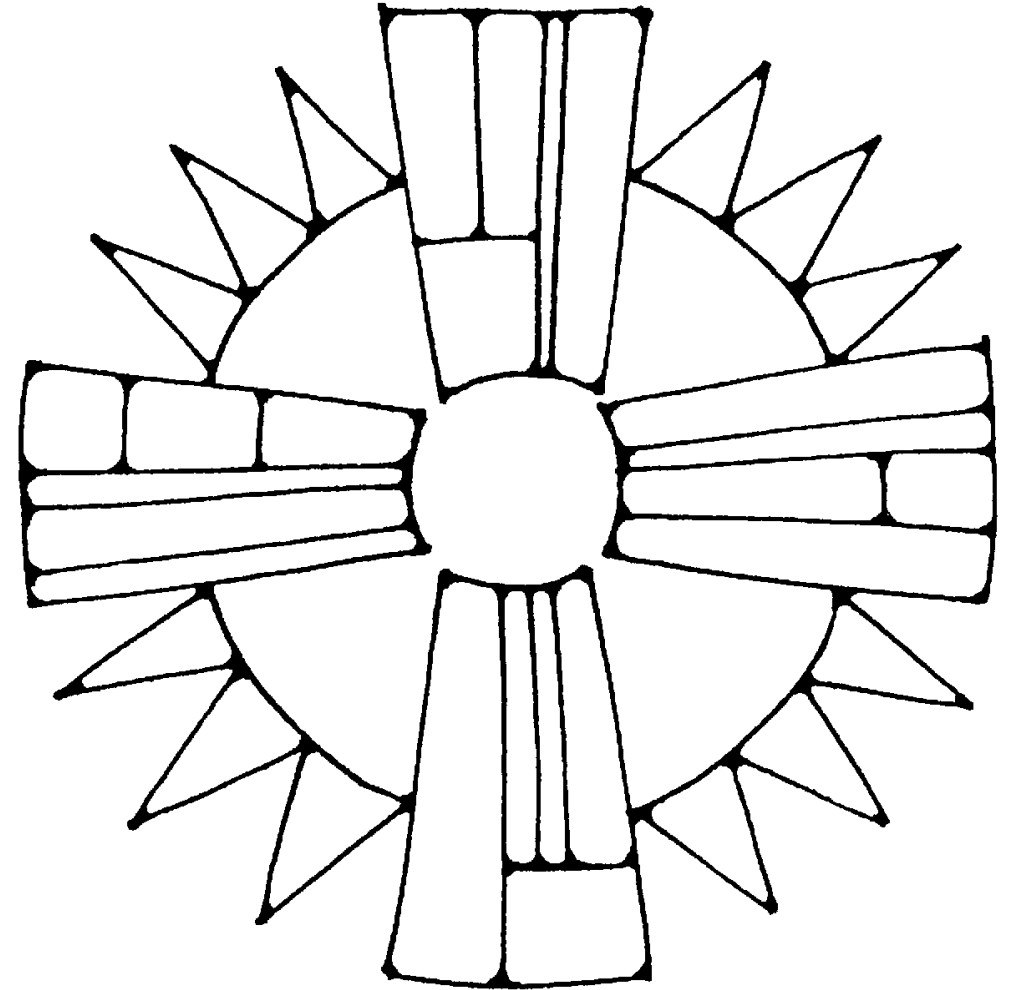
**SECOND READING. Ephesians 1:3-14**

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, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

**GOSPEL. John 1:1-18**

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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

# Second Sunday After Christmas



JANUARY 3, 2015  
10:00 a.m.

**Second Sunday After Christmas**  
January 3, 2016  
10:00 a.m.

First Lutheran Church  
Fergus Falls, Minnesota  
(218) 739-3348

Online  
Giving  
(QR Code)



[www.firstlutheranchurchff.org](http://www.firstlutheranchurchff.org) firstlc@live.com

In John's poetic telling of the nativity story, we hear that the word became flesh and lived among us. How do we, in this new year, hear this story in a new way? Today we pause and reflect on the beauty of the Christmas story and hear this story again with a light spirit.

**Prelude**  
**Announcements**

\* **Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness** ELW Page 94

\* **Entrance Hymn** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* **ELW 275**

\* **Apostolic Greeting** ELW Page 147

\* **Kyrie** ELW Page 147

\* **Hymn of Praise** *Glory to God* ELW Page 148

\* **Prayer of the Day**

P Let us pray. . . .

C Amen

**First Lesson** Jeremiah 31:7-14

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

(Congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God**)

**Second Lesson** Ephesians 1:3-14

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

(congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God**)

\* **Gospel Acclamation**



(Congregational response after Gospel is announced: **Glory to you, O Lord.**)

**Known Hospitalized:** Dennis Emmen & Julie Jimmerson at Sanford in Fargo. Edwin Peterson & Marlene Noack at Lake Region Hospital.

**Visitors!** If you didn't get a "Visitors Bag" when you came in this morning please pick one up on your way out after worship. You'll find them in a basket located on the small table on the ramp coming up from the narthex into the sanctuary.

**Large Print Edition** of the order of worship, the lessons, and the hymns for today are available. If you would like copies for worship, please ask an usher.

**2016 Offering Envelopes** are on the info counter for you to pick up. If you cannot find yours, please stop in the office and talk to Katrina.

**The 2016 Radio Broadcast Sign Up Sheet and the 2016 Flower Chart** are posted on the kiosk. If you would like to sponsor the broadcast or flowers, please stop and sign up today after worship.

**FLY groups & Confirmation** all start up again this Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**This Week at Lutheran:**

Today: 10:00 a.m. Worship/Holy Communion  
**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (resumes next Sunday)**

Monday: 9:00 WELCA Love Days  
5:00 p.m. Al-Anon  
5:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts  
6:00 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. Al-Anon  
10:00 a.m. AA  
3:45 p.m. Children's Choir  
4:30 p.m. FLY 57  
6:00 p.m. Hosanna Handbells  
6:30 p.m. 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation  
7:00 p.m. High School Senior FLY  
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir

Thurs.: 8:45 am Morning Watch – Pastor Saul – KBRF AM 1250  
9:30 a.m. Sr. Bible Study & Coffee

Friday: **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

Saturday: 1:00 p.m. 9<sup>th</sup> Graders leave for Camp Koinonia

**Next Sunday, January 10:**

8:30 & 11 a.m. Blended Worship/H. Communion  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School resumes  
10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study  
3:00 p.m. 9<sup>th</sup> Graders Return from Camp Koinonia

**NOTE CHANGE\*\***

**Hannah Circle** will meet on Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 p.m. in the lower parking lot of First Lutheran Church to carpool out to Mabel Murphy's for their Annual Christmas lunch.

**\*Gospel**

John 1:1-18

(Congregational response after Gospel is read: **Praise to you, O Christ**)

**Sermon**

*The Surprise of Christmas*

Pastor Jennifer

**Hymn of the Day**

*All My Heart Again Rejoices*

**ELW 273**

**\* Apostles' Creed**

Back Cover of Hymnal

**\* Prayers of the Church**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

P ... Lord, in your mercy, or ... Let us pray to the Lord.  
**C hear our prayer. Lord, have mercy.**

**\* The PEACE is shared**

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

**Offering**

**\* Offertory**

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -  
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the  
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

\* **The Great Thanksgiving**

ELW Page 152

\* **Words of Institution**

\* **The Lord's Prayer**

**C: 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**

**Distribution of Holy Communion**

**Hymns during Communion:**

**ELW 300, 286**

\* **Post-Communion Blessing**

\* **Post-Communion Hymn**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

**ELW 290**

\* **Prayer & Benediction**

\* **Dismissal**

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God

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Senior Pastor:	Saul Stensvaag
Associate Pastor:	Jennifer Rose
Visitation Pastor:	Stan Satre
Sunday School Superintendent:	Cindy Larson
Council President:	Lisa Wolfe
Organist:	Keith Melberg
Lector:	Teri Spangler
Acolytes:	Alexis Larson, Isaac Pederson
Cantor:	Brooke Kollman
Communion Assistants:	Tom, Lisa & Max Wolfe
Greeters	Pete & Jody Thom
PA Operators:	Margaret Ness-Ludwig