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**1st Sunday after Christmas**

“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.” *Isaiah 61:10a*

**AS WE GATHER**

How much time do we spend waiting? A study by the Timex corporation revealed that the average American spends thirty-eight hours annually waiting in traffic and thirteen hours each year on the telephone waiting for customer service. Waiting is not always easy, but certain kinds of waiting are truly worthwhile. The Gospel for the First Sunday after Christmas takes us to the temple in Jerusalem, where Simeon, a “righteous and devout” man is “waiting for the consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25). And his wait is more than worthwhile. He gets to hold the infant Christ Child and to express his thanks firsthand for the salvation that Jesus will accomplish. The waiting for Simeon was over. God knew the exact right time for His beloved Son to come to earth into this sin-filled world. God had a plan for salvation that was carried out faithfully and completely by Jesus. As we worship, we echo the words of Simeon, thankful that our waiting for Immanuel is over and that we are assured of the salvation brought by Jesus, the one for whom Simeon was waiting so patiently.

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Three, pg. 184-185)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Angels from the Realms of Glory”* (*LSB* 367)

**PSALM 111** (w/ Gloria Patri, *LSB*, pg. 186)

**KYRIE** (*LSB*, pg. 186)

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** (*LSB*, pg. 187-189)

**SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY** (*LSB*, pg. 189)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 61:10—62:3 *(bulletin insert)*

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below Collect of the Day)*

**EPISTLE** Galatians 4:4-7 *(bulletin insert)*

**ALLELUIA** (*LSB*, pg. 190)

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 2:22-40 *(bulletin insert)*

**NICENE CREED** (*LSB*, pg. 191)

**HYMN** *“In His Temple Now Behold Him”* (*LSB* 519)

**SERMON *“The Lord’s Christ”***

**OFFERTORY** (*LSB*, pg. 192-193)

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However, if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**LITURGY** (*LSB*, pg. 194-198)

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”* (*LSB* 352)

*“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”* (*LSB* 374)

**NUNC DIMITTIS** (*LSB*, pg. 199-200)

**THANKSGIVING** (*LSB*, pg. 200-201)

### SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS (LSB, pg. 201-202)

**BENEDICTION** (*LSB*, pg. 202)

**HYMN** *“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”* (*LSB* 390)

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**