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**Circumcision and Name of Jesus**

“And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb” *Luke 2:21*

**AS WE GATHER**

An old year ends and a new year begins! Yet, often so little changes. For most, that movement means little difference regarding life, vocation, house, and home. Outside of annually changing one number on our calendar, much of life remains the same, including the daily battles we face against Satan, sin, and our own flesh. With that, we rejoice today not just in the year’s changing, but a daily changing we recognize every day as we live in this world through the blameless One born for us. Christ was under and has fulfilled God’s Law perfectly for us, even as an infant child brought to the temple for circumcision under Mosaic Law. It would mark both the promise of redemption and the burden of the Law—and with Jesus marking the sacrifice that would set us free. Try as we might with new year’s resolutions to become better people, we still find ourselves falling short of God’s moral law that remains today. Rejoice in the newness that has come! More than a new year, we are given a new life, for Christ has fulfilled all and set us free! As we are marked in Baptism and bear Christ’s name, we become inheritors of His promise. It is a newness to celebrate each day of every year!

**PSALM** 8

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Five, pg. 213)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”* (*LSB* 379)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Numbers 6:22-27 *(bulletin insert)*

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

**EPISTLE** Galatians 3:23-29 *(bulletin insert)*

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 2:21 *(bulletin insert)*

# NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

**HYMN** *“Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love”* (*LSB* 900)

**SERMON *“The Name”***

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** (*LSB*, pg. 215-216)

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**+ 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.*

**PREFACE** (*LSB*, pg. 216)

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**DISTRIBUTION**

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

 *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”* (*LSB* 393)

**POST-COMMUNION LITURGY** (*LSB*, pg. 218)

**HYMN** *“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”* (*LSB* 733)

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**