

First Sunday of Christmas
December 31, 2023
Order of Service, Readings, and Prayer

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THE GATHERING

Welcome	
Prelude	<i>“Carol of The Bells”</i>
*Confession and Forgiveness	p. 94
*Hymn <i>“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”</i>	No. 275
*Greeting & Kyrie	p. 138
*Canticle of Praise	p. 139
*Prayer of the Day	Insert

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading –	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148 (read responsively)	Insert
Second Reading	Galatians 4:4-7
*The Gospel Acclamation	p. 142
*Holy Gospel	Luke 2:22-40
Children’s Message	Rev. Tim Kneuss
Children’s Church	Youth

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Message	Rev. Tim Kneuss
*Hymn <i>“The First Noel”</i>	No. 300
*The Apostles’ Creed	back of hymnal
Anthem <i>“What Child Is This”</i>	Choir
* Blessing of Offerings	
*The Prayers of Intercession	p. 143
P: Hear us, O God.	
C: your mercy is great.	
*The Lord’s Prayer - Traditional	p. 145

SENDING

Parish Announcements	
*The Blessing	p. 146
*Sending Song <i>“Go Tell It on the Mountain”</i>	No. 290
*The Dismissal	p. 146

****The Congregation will stand in reverence.***

PASTOR

Rev. Timothy A. Kneuss



Today's Readings

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Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments
of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of
righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a
garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her
jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown
in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness
and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

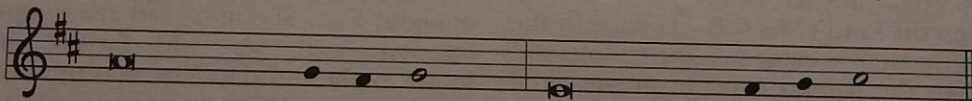
^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like
the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the
hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of
your God.

Psalm

Psalm 148; tone 6



Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD ¹ from the heavens;
praise God ¹ in the heights.

²Praise the LORD, ¹ all you angels;
sing praise, all you ¹ hosts of heaven.

³Praise the LORD, ¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ¹ shining stars.

⁴Praise the LORD, heav- ¹ en of heavens,
and you waters a- ¹ bove the heavens.

⁵Let them praise the name ¹ of the LORD,
who commanded,
and they ¹ were created,

⁶who made them stand fast
forev- ¹ er and ever,
giving them a law

that shall not ¹ pass away.

⁷Praise the LORD ¹ from the earth,
you sea monsters ¹ and all deeps;

⁸fire and hail, ¹ snow and fog,
tempestuous wind,
do- ¹ ing God's will;

⁹mountains ¹ and all hills,
fruit trees ¹ and all cedars;

¹⁰wild beasts ¹ and all cattle,
creeping things and ¹ flying birds;

¹¹sovereigns of the earth ¹ and all peoples,
princes and all rulers ¹ of the world;

¹²young ¹ men and maidens,
old and ¹ young together.

¹³Let them praise the name ¹ of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted,
whose splendor
is over ¹ earth and heaven. continued

Psalm, continued

¹⁴The LORD has raised up
strength for the people
and praise for all ¹ faithful servants,

the children of Israel,
a people who are near the LORD.
¹ Hallelujah!

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing
your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the
presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people
Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

TODAY'S READINGS December 31, 2023

Volume 55, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day and psalm from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year B* (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org.

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