

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

THEME: Being positioned to serve, God's power works in and then through us to others.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

WE CONFESS OUR SIN.....

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and give appropriate praise to your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: We confess together: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions, by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your loving will and walk in your loving ways, to your praise and glory. Amen.

AND RECEIVING GOD'S WORD OF FORGIVENESS.....

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen!

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE "Green Book" 84 (all verses)

Brightest and Best

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion,
Fragrance of Edom and of'frings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray. Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

[Old Testament Lesson: I Kings 3:4-15](#) *The Lord blesses Solomon beyond measure*

And 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. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." 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. 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. 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. 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?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 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, 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. 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. 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."

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.

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14 *Jesus ensures that we will be presented holy and blameless*

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, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

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, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 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, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:40-52 *Jesus makes himself "home" in His Father's house*

And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 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, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 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." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 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.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought.....by day and by night,
Waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,
Raise thou me heav'nward, O pow'r of my pow'r.

Light of my soul, after victory won.
May I reach heav'n's joy, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

SERMON

"In Position!"

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

**We believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**
We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And born of the virgin Mary.**
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.**
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
**He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

after each petition the response is:

P: Lord in your mercy

C: **Hear our prayer.**

OFFERINGS GATHERED

(We give our offerings as a sign of our lives given to the Lord in humble service)

OFFERING SONG "Green Book" 410 (verse 1 only) We Give Thee But Thine Own

We give thee but thine own, What e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: Praised and blessed are you,

Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world,

You gave your only Son,

That all who believe in him should not perish

But have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

For the salvation you have prepared for us

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

That we may receive our Lord with a living faith,

As he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBTUTION SONGS

"Green Book" 296 Just As I Am
Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

“Green Book” 448 Amazing Grace
Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has bought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

BENEDICTION

CHOIR CLOSING SONG

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POST-SERVICE MUSIC