

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 26, 2004

The First Sunday After Christmas

8:30 and 11 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

THE PEOPLE GATHER. . .

The Prelude

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

(Please remain seated while joining the choir in singing.)

Hymn 50 *“Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow”*

Hymn 37 *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”*

Hymn 27 *“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”*

Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

“The Snow Lay on the Ground”

The Call To Worship

Let us recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord.

Because of all that the Lord has done for us,
Because of the great favor the Lord has shown us
according to God’s mercy.

Because of the abundance of the Lord’s steadfast love.

Proclaim the birth of Messiah.

Christ is born in Bethlehem!

The Prayer of Praise

*The Hymn 41

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*The Prayer of Confession

Despite all your love, we are afraid, O God. Most of the time we do not know what we are afraid of. Fearful of one another, we fight or flee or make unhappy truces. Afraid of ourselves, we try to make ourselves into someone else or let others do it for us. Scared of death, we pretend it won’t happen to us or we die before dying. In your mercy, forgive our fearful lives and timid fate. . .(time for silent confession).

*The Choral Response

*Assurance of Pardon

Because Christ was tested by suffering,
Christ is able to help those who are being tested.
Through suffering, Christ, merciful and faithful,
atoned for our sin and destroyed the one who has the power of death.
Trust Christ and believe the Good News of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

*The Hymn 40

“Joy to the World!”

(verses 3 & 4 only)

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**
(Please exchange this ancient greeting with worshippers seated near you.
Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

Waking or sleeping, let us always be alert to what You want for us, O God. When we dream, give us, as You gave Joseph, visions of what You would have us do. With the vision of Your will for us, grant us courage to act faithfully as servants of Your Word. In Jesus' holy name, we pray. Amen.

The *Old Testament* Lesson: *Isaiah 63:7-9* p. 642 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 148* p. 546 in the pew Bible

The Anthem *"The Birthday of the King"* Neidlinger/Krogstad
John Baer & Jeremy Vaughn, baritones

The *Epistle* Lesson: *Hebrews 2:10-18* p. 1045 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 49 (8:30 a.m.) *"Once in Royal David's City"*

The *Sacrament of Baptism* (11:00 a.m.)

*The *Apostles' Creed* p. 14 in the Hymnal

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Baptism

The Welcome

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church
to share with us in His ministry for we are all one in Christ.**

*The Hymn 497 *"With Grateful Hearts Our Faith Professing"*

The *Gospel* Lesson: *Matthew 2:13-23* p. 836 in the pew Bible

The Sermon *"When Christmas Works"*
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE. . .

The *Apostles' Creed* (8:30 a.m.) p. 14 in the Hymnal

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering

The Offertory

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

High God, You have not merely sent an angel envoy to us, but have come Yourself to deliver us through Jesus Christ. We stand before you not merely to offer our service to you and to others, but to offer our very selves, together as one people – your people. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*The Hymn 35 *"In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy"*

*The Charge and Benediction

*The Sending Hymn 40 *"Joy to the World!"*
(verses 1 & 2 only)

*The Postlude