



*Live Stream via  
facebook.com/salcwausau  
Christmas 2  
Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:1-18  
January 3, 2021*

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy. **Amen.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

God of goodness and loving kindness,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through ✝ Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. **Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

### GREETING & LITANY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.  
**By day and night he shines for all to see.**  
Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty  
**that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**  
God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,  
**so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**

Jesus is the light of the world.  
**Jesus is the light of our lives.**  
Sing to God a new song!  
**A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

## WORD

A reading from Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### SUNG RESPONSE

vs. 1 *"Let Our Gladness Have No End"*

A reading from Ephesians.

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, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and

insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

SUNG RESPONSE vs. 4 *"Let Our Gladness Have No End"*

The gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.] He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

NICENE CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The response is:*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

PEACE

OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

*"What Feast of Love"*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER FOR THOSE NOT RECEIVING COMMUNION

SENDING

SENDING SONG

*"Love Has Come"*

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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**Serving in Worship**

Pr. Justin Smoot  
Christina Johnson - Guest Preacher  
Joel Freiberg - Pianist  
Michael Johnson - Vocalist and Layreader

**Technical Support**

Schwantes Family  
Bob Wiederhoeft  
Joel Freiberg



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JANUARY 3, 2021  
SECOND SUNDAY  
AFTER CHRISTMAS



*Jesus enters our world full of grace and truth.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 1:1-18</b>	<b>The Word became flesh</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jeremiah 31:7-14</b>	<b>Israel will return to its own land</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Ephesians 1:3-14</b>	<b>Spiritual blessings in Christ</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Matthew 2:1-12</b>	<b>The visit of the wise men</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Colossians 1:15-23</b>	<b>The person and work of Christ</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Genesis 1:1-4</b>	<b>God creates light</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 147:12-20</b>	<b>Sing and praise the Lord</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 1:4-11</b>	<b>The baptism of Jesus</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

**John 1:14 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty and merciful God, we thank you for blessing us in Christ with every spiritual blessing. Amen. (Ephesians 1:3)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, you who give us food to eat and Jesus to meet, thank you for your abundant love that comes to us from above. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God shine the light of Christ, full of grace and truth, on you now and always.



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JANUARY 3, 2021

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Angels from the  
Realms of Glory*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What are some of your memories of the Christmas season this past year?
- In what ways can you focus on Jesus' birth during the 12 days of Christmas?
- Is it important to you that Jesus, God the Son, became human? Why or why not?

### DEVOTIONS



*Read:* John 1:1-18.

The Gospel of John does not have a birth story like Matthew or Luke. In a sense, this is John's birth story, but instead of talking about Mary, Joseph, and Bethlehem, John speaks about what Jesus' birth means for us: light for the world; the Word of God becomes human in Jesus Christ; through the Word that is Jesus, we are given grace and truth; we are given grace upon grace; all that God intends for us is shown to us through God's only Son, Jesus. John places all of this in the context of the creation story. In the Genesis creation story, God speaks and light, sky, dry land, and all of creation happens. In John 1 this speaking God is portrayed as the Word that has now taken on human form in Jesus. Through Jesus the Word now reveals something, God's grace and truth intended for all that God has made. It is a promise of abundance that lavishes God's goodness on earth through Jesus. This Jesus, the Word become flesh, will turn water into wine (John 2:1-11) and later in his ministry state that he brings the abundant life (John 10:10), all of which flows out of John's opening statement about the Word that becomes flesh and is full of grace and truth. How do you experience God's grace and truth in daily life?

**Pray: God of grace and truth, we thank you for giving us your Son, Jesus Christ, the Word that became human and speaks to us and gives us your abundant love and mercy. Amen.**

### SERVICE



All the Scripture readings this week speak of God's abundant love showered on God's people. We live in a world where not all people have enough to eat or have adequate shelter. How can you take action steps to be the hands, feet, and voice of God's love to others this week?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During Advent and the Christmas season, we light candles to symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus. Place a candle as a centerpiece on your dinner table this week. Before each meal, as you light the candle:

**Say: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)