

# THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Jan. 4 Anno Domini (The Year of Our LORD) 2026

## ✠ Preparation ✠

### Welcome and Connection Cards

*Stand*

### Reading *Luke 2:4-7*

<sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### Reading *Hebrews 4:14-16*

<sup>14</sup>Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## Christmas Carol - LSB 376 - Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the

low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in

ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.  
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.  
stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-95, alt.

Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-76

Text and tune: Public domain

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### Invocation

**P** In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.


- P** Our help is in the Name of the LORD,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O LORD, who could stand?  
**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

*Stand*

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

**Introit** *Psalm 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon: John 1:14*  
 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,  
 glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.  
 Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;  
 for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.  
 Great is our LORD, and abundant in power;  
 his understanding is beyond measure.  
 But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,  
 in those who hope in his steadfast love.  
 Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!  
 Praise your God, O Zion!  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
 as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,  
 glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## Gloria in Excelsis - The song of the Christmas Angels



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
 2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

**Sit**

## Reading

<sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him.  
Though you do not now see him, you believe in  
him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and  
filled with glory, <sup>9</sup>obtaining the outcome of your  
faith, the salvation of your souls.

## Reading

<sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He  
will dwell with them, and they will be his people,  
and God himself will be with them as their God.  
<sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and  
death shall be no more, neither shall there be

mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the  
former things have passed away.”

## Christmas Carol - LSB 386 - Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.  
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa-ther's grace di - vine.  
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n-ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man-ger lies;  
Cheer my wea-ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;  
Death was reign-ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty  
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright-ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.  
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n-ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!  
Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!  
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell,  
1806-74, alt.

Revelation 21:3  
Text and tune: Public domain

**Stand**

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The LORD be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our LORD, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

### Old Testament Reading *1 Kings 3:4–15*

*After the reading:*

**L** This is the Word of the LORD.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Epistle Reading *Ephesians 1:3–14*

*After the reading:*

**L** This is the Word of the LORD.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### Alleluia and Verse



**All: Alleluia.** The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. Alleluia.



### Holy Gospel

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O LORD.

*After the reading:*

**P** This is the Gospel of the LORD.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Nicene Creed

**All: I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one LORD Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came  
down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the  
virgin Mary  
and was made man;**

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and

the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the LORD and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is

worshiped and

glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

### Hymn of the Day - LSB 410 - Within the Father's House



1 With-in the Fa-ther's house The Son has found His home,  
2 The doc-tors of the Law Gaze on the won-drous child  
3 Yet not to them is giv'n The might-y truth to know,  
4 The se-cret of the Lord Es-ca-apes each hu-man eye,



And to His tem-ple sud-den-ly The Lord of life has come.  
And mar-vel at His gra-cious words Of wis-dom un-de-filed.  
To lift the earth-ly veil that hides In-car-nate God be-low.  
And faith-ful pon-d'ring hearts a-wait The full e-piph-a-ny.

5. LORD, visit Thou our souls  
And teach us by Thy grace  
Each dim revealing of Thyself  
With loving awe to trace.

- △ 6. Till we behold Thy face  
And know as we are known  
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Coequal Three in One.

Text: James R. Woodford, 1820–85, alt.

Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758; adapt. William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

Text and tune: Public domain

### Message “Two Carols” - *Good King Wenceslas*, v. 1; *LSB 374 - Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

MEMORY VERSE: *Ephesians 5: 20*

“...always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

### Prayer of the Church

*The congregation now greets one another in the Name of the LORD, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).*

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the LORD be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Offering

## Benediction

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you.  
The LORD make His face shine on you and be  
gracious to you.  
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give  
you peace.  
**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Announcements

## Reading

<sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and  
all the angels with him, then he will sit on his  
glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all  
the nations, and he will separate people one from  
another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the  
goats. <sup>33</sup>And he will place the sheep on his right,  
but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to  
those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by  
my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you  
from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was  
hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you  
gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed

me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick  
and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to  
me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, saying,  
‘LORD, when did we see you hungry and feed you,  
or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup>And when did we  
see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and  
clothe you? <sup>39</sup>And when did we see you sick or in  
prison and visit you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer  
them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of  
the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

*Children are invited to come forward and assist in leading the  
Closing Song with percussion instruments*

*Stand*

## Christmas Carol - Good King Wenceslas

*Matthew 25:31–40*