



*Merry  
Christmas*

*December 25, 2016*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME and RELATIONSHIPS of PEACE

## OPENING HYMN “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” [LW 41]

## INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P: This Christmas morning we come together with the Son of God and with one another, confessing our sins:

C: **Heavenly Father, we confess that we approach the Holy Nativity with sinful hearts. We have focused on our own desires, neglected the voices of Your children who cry out for justice, and have turned away hurting and broken people. Cast out our sin and bring us to into Your arms.**

P: Hear the good news of Christmas. The Holy Child of Bethlehem is Word made flesh. Today He reveals to you His peace which forgives all your sins. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:21-40 [NIV]

<sup>21</sup>On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived. <sup>22</sup>When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: <sup>29</sup>“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. <sup>30</sup>For my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup>so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup>Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **SERMON "GOD'S BABY"**

## **SERMON RESPONSE "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" [LW 57, v. 1 & 3]**

## **PEOPLE of PEACE in PRAYER**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** *The Family Prayer of the People of God*

## **WORDS of INSTITUTION**

## **THE PEACE**

## **AGNUS DEI** [p. 170]

## **OFFERING**

*(Before Communing, please take time to read our statement of faith found in the pew rack in front of you; fill out and place your attendance card and offering in the basket as you come forward.)*

## **DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”** [LW 60]

**“What Child is This”** [LW 61]

“Special Instrumental Music” – *Michelle Glasscock, trumpet*

## **CLOSING HYMN “Ding, Dong Merrily on High”**

## **CONNECT**

- **Church Office will be closed until Tuesday, January 3**
- **For Bible Studies & Choir Rehearsals, check our website for updates**

*2016 Contributions – all contributions intended for 2016  
must be received in the mail by Friday, December 30.*

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

SERMON: *Rev. James L. Mueller*  
LITURGIST: *Rev. Morgan Hamilton*



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