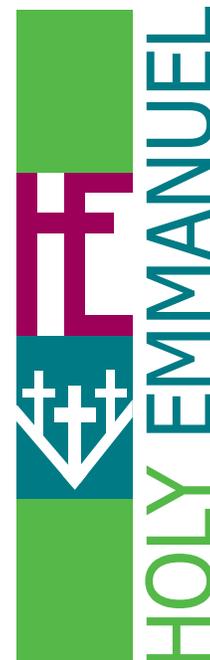

2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS JANUARY 2, 2022



WELCOME

SONG: “Come and Rejoice” (*Don Moen/Gerrit Gustafson*)

**Come with rejoicing, the Father is calling,
those who would worship in spirit and truth;
Come with your singing, come with thanksgiving,
Jesus, our Savior, has made all things new.
Come and rejoice, O holy nation,
come and sing praises to Him;
Come and bow down, worship before Him,
Jesus, the King of all kings,
Jesus, the King of all kings.**

**The Lord of creation is full of compassion,
seated in splendor adorned with all grace;
Majestic and glorious, reigning victorious,
now and forever enthroned on our praise.
Come and rejoice, O holy nation,
come and sing praises to Him;
Come and bow down, worship before Him,
Jesus, the King of all kings,
Jesus, the King of all kings.**

**With the sound of the trumpet He summons the nations,
Calling a priesthood to go in His name;
To show forth His power to this generation,
to worship before him, a kingdom of praise.
Come and rejoice, O holy nation,
come and sing praises to Him;
Come and bow down, worship before Him,
Jesus, the King of all kings,
Jesus, the King of all kings.**

(C. 1989 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Used by permission. CCLI #522460)

INVOCATION

OPENING PRAYER: (*Spoken together*)

Lord God You once revealed Your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know Your presence in our lives, and give us an understanding of the great mystery of Your love. As we gather to worship our King, give us hearts that overflow with joy that we may share Your great gift with all the world. In the name of our King, who lives and reigns with You Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

EPIPHANY READING: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." ³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

CONFESSION OF SIN:

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.

We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourself. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

HYMN: "As With Gladness Men of Old" (LSB #397)

**As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.**

**Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.**

(Public Domain)

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

¹⁰ I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations... ¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. ² The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. ³ You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 1:3-18

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. ¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. ¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

RESPONSE: (From Isaiah 9:6 & Psalm 98)

Pastor: To us a child is born, to us a son is given,

People: And the government will be on his shoulders.

Pastor: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

People: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Pastor: Sing to the Lord a new song,

People: For he has done marvelous things.

GOSPEL READING: John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. ⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" ¹⁶ From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

SONG: "Come and See" (Lenny LeBlanc)

**Come and see the glory of the Lord,
Come, behold the Lamb.
Come and see the mercy of the King,
Bowing down before Him.
For He is Lord above the heavens,
Lord in all the earth.
Lord of all the angels,
Worthy to be served.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Come and give thanks unto the Lord,
Come, behold the Lamb.
Come and sing the praises of the King,
Bowing down before Him.
For He is Lord above the heavens,
Lord in all the earth.
Lord of all the angels,
Worthy to be served.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Come and see the glory of the Lord,
Come, behold the Lamb.
Come and see the mercy of the King,
Bowing down before Him.**

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SERMON: Ephesians 1:3-18 “Who Gets the Credit?”

OFFERING

PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

People: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

HYMN: “Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn” (LSB #391, tune #395)

**Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn,
A Savior unto us is born,
The Christ, the Lord of glory!
His lowly birth in Bethlehem
The angels from on high proclaim
And sing redemption’s story!
My soul. Extol
God’s great favor;
Bless Him ever
For salvation;
Give Him praise and adoration!**

(Public Domain)

IN THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WE BELIEVE *our Lord Jesus Christ comes to us with His body and blood given and shed for the forgiveness of sins (Matt 26:26-28). In it we are united with him and with the whole Church. Baptized and confirmed Christians who believe, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, that Christ’s body and blood are present in the bread and wine of the Sacrament, who acknowledge their sin, set aside any refusal to forgive (Matt 6:15), are sorry, repent (Mark 1:15) and look to Christ alone for forgiveness and strength to live the new life, are welcome to eat and drink at the Lord’s table in remembrance of Him. (1 Cor 11:25-25) You may register for Communion as the Friendship Folder is passed to you in the pew. If you have any questions, please speak to the Pastor or a Lay Minister before communing.*

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER

BENEDICTION

HYMN: "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning" (LSB #400)

**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine 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 off'rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?**

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

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BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS

Adult Bible Class:

**Meets on Sundays at 8:30am-9:15am.
Also meets on Tuesdays at 11am-noon.
Location: Church fellowship hall.**

**Topic: Both classes are the same.
We are currently finishing up our look at the
book of Revelation.**

Memorial Gift

Holy Emmanuel Lutheran Church is a beneficiary recipient from the John and Ida Mae Dolny Trust. The amount received by Holy Emmanuel was a substantial amount. The funds will be used to improve the heating and air conditioning systems for our Christian early childhood center of the church. This section is our primary Outreach Program and has been in existence for almost 25 years. The Dolny donation allows repairs to be made prior to the full winter season. The donation was perfectly timed.

Holy Emmanuel Lutheran Church is deeply grateful to the Major General John Dolny Family for the very generous and thoughtful donation. The donation truly is a blessing.

May the Spirit of our Lord bless and comfort the Dolny family in this Christmas season and always.

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. ¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory. ¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

1. What might we take credit for at the beginning of a new year?
2. How are the “heavenly realms” to be understood?
3. What are some of the spiritual blessings we receive in Christ?
4. When did God choose us to be his people?
5. What does it mean to be predestined?
6. What did God do for us after sending his Son Jesus as the Savior?
7. How do the truths taught here help us as we begin a new year?
8. Why are we in trouble if our future blessings depend on us?

9. Why is it comforting to have our future depend on God?

10. How do we know the devil is no match for Jesus?

11. Why do we have hope even when we fail with spiritual New Year's resolutions?

12. What will Jesus be doing for us in the new year?

Scripture References

Jan 2, 2022

Ephesians 1:3

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 1:4

⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

Ephesians 1:5,6

...In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he love

Ephesians 1:7,8

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Ephesians 1:9-14

⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. ¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:15-18

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