



The Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.
And the favor of God was upon Him.

+ Luke 2:40

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 3, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This year, because of the way the days of the week fall immediately after Christmas Day, we are blessed by having not one but two Sundays after Christmas!

In the *Old Testament Reading*, Solomon, a young man, takes on an enormous task, continuing the business of his father, the powerful King David. Like the boy Jesus, he grew in wisdom for the task. The *Epistle* reminds us that “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus” makes known to us His loving will “in all wisdom and insight” (Eph 1:3, 8–9). In the *Gospel*, it is the twelve- year-old Jesus who is truly “about *My* Father’s business,” as He continues to grow in wisdom and stature.

Jesus was glad to be in God’s house when He was in Jerusalem. Our gladness in these special days is heightened by our being here for worship as we grow in wisdom and in stature by God’s boundless grace!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

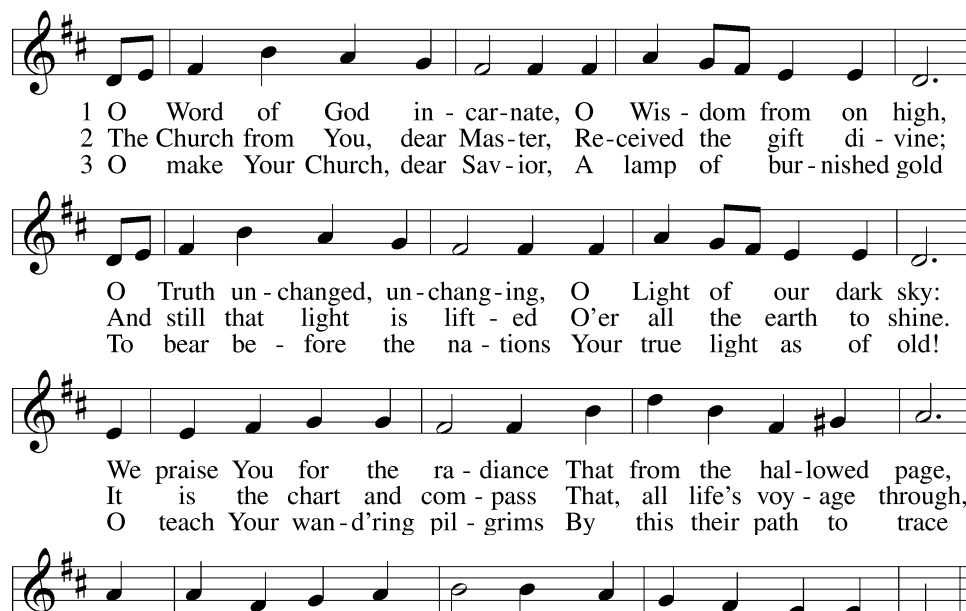


Jesus Among the Doctors by Max Liebermann, 1879, Public Domain

✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION: O Word of God Incarnate

LSB 523



1 O Word of God in - car-nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The Church from You, dear Mas-ter, Re-ceived the gift di - vine;
 3 O make Your Church, dear Sav-ior, A lamp of bur - nished gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
 And still that light is lift - ed O'er all the earth to shine.
 To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light as of old!

We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,
 O teach Your wan - d'ring pil - grims By this their path to trace

A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.
 Mid mists and rocks and quick - sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.
 Till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, They see You face to face!

Text and tune: Public Domain

Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[Hebrews 10:22]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalms 32:5

Kneel (or remain standing) — Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

C Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon: John 1:14

The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.



(Antiphon) 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.

¹ Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;*
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.

⁵ Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;*
His understanding is beyond | measure.

¹¹ But the LORD takes pleasure in those who | fear Him,*
in those who hope in His | steadfast love.

¹² Praise the LORD, O Je- | rusalem!*
Praise your God, O | Zion!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The antiphon is repeated.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47



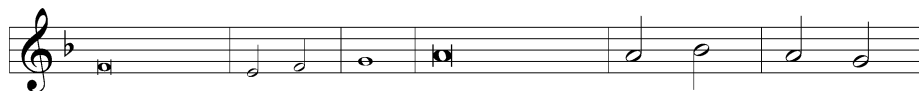
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

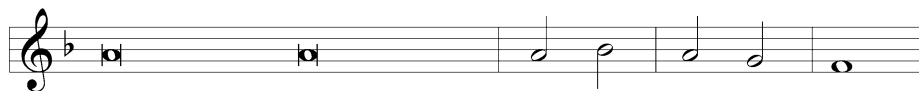
Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.

G And with thy spir - it.

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.

G A - men.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Kings 3:4–15

P The Old Testament Reading is from First Kings, chapter three.

⁴The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward You. And You have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give Your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern Your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this Your great people?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV); Psalm 98:1a (NKJV)

The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.



For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is | given;*

and the government will be upon His | shoulder.

And His name will be called Wonderful, | Counselor, *

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

Oh, sing to the LORD a | new song!*

For He has done | marvelous things!

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 1:3–14

P The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter one.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, ⁶to the praise of His glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, ⁸which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. ¹³In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE



Alleluia. The Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.

Luke 2:40

And the favor of God was upon Him. Alleluia.



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:40–52

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter two.



⁴⁰The Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.

⁴¹Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the Boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing Him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for Him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him. ⁴⁶After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. ⁴⁸And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished. And His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us so? Behold, Your father and I have been searching for You in great distress." ⁴⁹And He said to them, "Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them. ⁵¹And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.




NICENE CREED

C 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  of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY: Within the Father's House

LSB 410



- 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-capes 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 and tune: Public Domain

SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

After the Sermon the pastor may say:

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Philippains 4:7

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12

C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Kneel (or remain standing)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** In thanksgiving for the eternal Word made flesh and His dwelling among us, full of grace and truth; that His praise would be extended into all the world; and that many more with us would come to hope in His steadfast love, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For Matthew and Michael, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, that they be upheld and strengthened in service to God and to His kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For Christian homes, that following the example of our Lord Jesus, all children would be diligent to hear the Word of God, grow in wisdom and stature, submit to earthly parents, and always be about the heavenly Father's business and in His house, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the Church, blessed in Christ, the Beloved, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins; for the preaching of the Gospel of salvation and the seal of the promised Holy Spirit in Baptism; and to raise up faithful preachers among us to the praise of Christ's glory until we acquire the inheritance promised us in Him, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For Donald, Gavin, and all leaders and elected officials, that as God once gave His servant Solomon unsurpassed wisdom to rule Israel they may excel in wisdom and, by God's grace and favor, be enabled to discern between good and evil and govern wisely this nation and people, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the sick and suffering, that according to God's gracious will, they be healed; and for all who mourn, that God comfort them in His promise of the blessed reunion of all the saints, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all who come to the blessed Sacrament this day, that as Christ won our redemption through His blood, so now, according to the riches of His grace, He grant us worthy repentance, confident faith, and unity of confession (doctrine), let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.

P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

The prayers then continue:

P For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C **Alleluia.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

P Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C **To You, O Lord.**

The live-stream service concludes with the following:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **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.**

CONCLUDING COLLECT

P Let us pray.

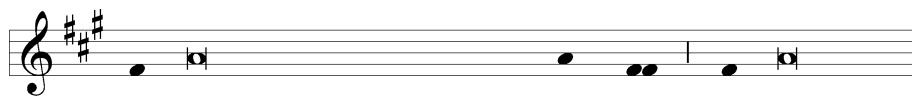
Blessèd Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

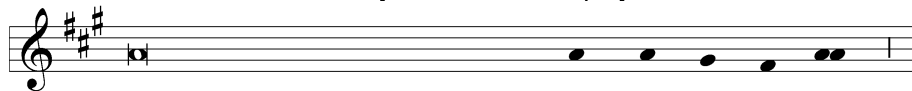
Stand

BENEDICTION

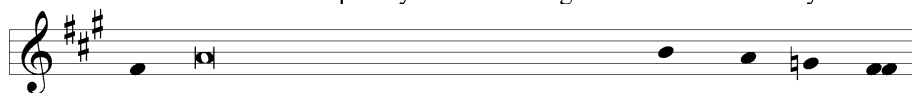
Numbers 6:24–26



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra-cious un-to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

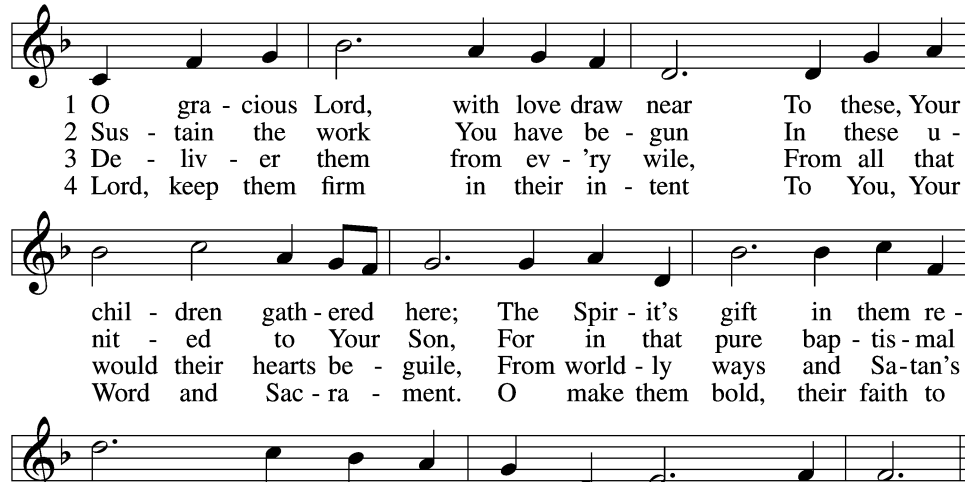


C A-men, a-men, a-men.

The Divine Service will continue with the Lord's Supper for those present at the church. Please sing and/or read aloud the closing hymn in your home and come by the church for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.

CLOSING HYMN: O Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near

LSB 599



1 O gra - cious Lord, with love draw near To these, Your
2 Sus - tain the work You have be - gun In these u -
3 De - liv - er them from ev - 'ry wile, From all that
4 Lord, keep them firm in their in - tent To You, Your

chil - dren gath - ered here; The Spir - it's gift in them re -
nit - ed to Your Son, For in that pure bap - tis - mal
would their hearts be - guile, From world - ly ways and Sa - tan's
Word and Sac - ra - ment. O make them bold, their faith to

new: The gift of faith that clings to You.
flood They have been cleansed by Je - sus' blood.
lies, That they may not Your Word de - spise.
share And make them strong, each cross to bear.

5 O Father, grant that by Your grace
They may Your will each day embrace;
With fruits of faith their lives now bless,
Till they at death Your name confess.

5 Then robed in white before Your throne,
Your holy saints, by You foreknown—
Predestined, called, and justified,
Shall, crowned in light, be glorified.

Text and tune: Public Domain

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year! So also begins the arduous task of remembering to write 2021 instead of 2020 (I have already failed to do this EACH AND EVERY TIME).

I had an epiphany last week (by the way, The Feast of the Epiphany is this Wednesday). I was driving in my car and tuned my radio to what was the “Holly” channel (which, for obvious reasons, I prefer <LOL!> and which played Christmas music ever since late November). I was in the mood for a little more Christmas music. To my great disappointment, the Christmas music was GONE—replaced by what passes for “New Year’s Eve” party music!

You’re probably thinking, “Of course it changed; the holiday channels change with the holidays!” But let me tell you: IT IS STILL CHRISTMAS! There are twelve days of it!

Our poor modern world is always “on to the next” with reckless abandon! No savoring of the moment.

Advent is the time appointed to get ready and build anticipation for that most wonderful Christian celebration we call Christmas: when we welcome God-in-the-flesh; when we brighten the winter nights with twinkling lights as a reminder that the Light of the world now shines amidst the darkness of sin; and when we exchange gifts—tokens of our love—as our joyful response to God’s greatest gift to us—Christ Jesus, the Father’s only-begotten Son, and the fulfillment of His promise to save us from sin.

The world begins celebrating “Christmas” in mid-November (or earlier). It’s totally backwards—like sneaking out of bed to unwrap the gifts beneath the tree, ruining the surprise of Christmas morning. By the time that Christmas Day rolls around, the world has had its fill and twelve days is just too much to stomach anymore (not unlike the twelfth day of eating turkey after Thanksgiving).

It wasn’t always this way in America. The Twelve Days of Christmas used to be a big deal! George and Martha Washington would host their friends at Mount Vernon for all twelve days! And then, on The Feast of the Epiphany (the twelfth day), they would celebrate their wedding anniversary with all their friends. It was considered luck (perhaps better said “a blessed thing”) to be married on Epiphany!

So I hope that you’ll follow George and Martha’s example and make the Twelve Days of Christmas and Epiphany a BIG DEAL! Keep those Christmas decorations up! Keep the carols playing! And keep the “magic” of Christmas going—keep your eyes on Jesus and let not your tongue be silent to proclaim the miracles that He has wrought for you: forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation!

And since Epiphany IS a big deal, we’ll be studying Matthew 2:1-12 during our “Zoom” Bible Study at Noon on Tuesday and having a special Epiphany Service at 7:00pm on Wednesday (Facebook Live).

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join by phone, call either “669-900-9128” or “346-248-7799” and enter 7603525715#
- The password for both (computer or telephone) is “12345”

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church's post office box:
Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.



Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw