



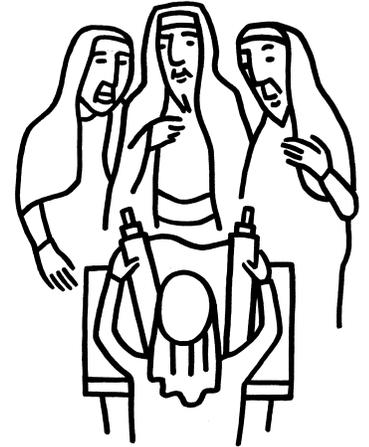
# The Weekly Word



*Readings for Sunday, December 26, 2021*  
**First Sunday of Christmas**

## ■ INTRODUCTION

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.



## ■ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(Silence for reflection and personal confession.)*

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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 neighbors as ourselves. 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

---

## ■ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## ■ FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

<sup>18</sup>Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup>His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD”; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup>Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

## ■ PSALM: Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights. <sup>2</sup>Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven. <sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars. <sup>4</sup>Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created, <sup>6</sup>who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps; <sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God’s will; <sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; <sup>10</sup>wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds; <sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; <sup>12</sup>young men and maidens, old and young together. <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven. <sup>14</sup>The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.  
Hallelujah!

## ■ SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-17

<sup>12</sup>As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

<sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

---

## ■ THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE: Luke 2:41-52

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>41</sup>Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.

<sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

<sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

<sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.

His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise to you, O Christ!***

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

---

## ■ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

P: You come to us in many and various ways, through our neighbor in need, through the preaching of your word and the celebration of the sacraments. Unite all creation through your Word made flesh. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

P: You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to trust our place in the network of creation, that we live in service to you and the natural world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

P: You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

P: You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and an imprisoned Paul announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day, especially (*names*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

P: You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: You come to us through those who have died yet live with you forever, especially (*names*). We give thanks for Stephen, deacon and martyr, who gave his life to tell the story of your love. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

P: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**



---

**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.



**WORSHIP LEADERS THIS WEEK**

December 26	8:30	11:00
USHERS	John Race	Mary Armbrister
LECTORS	George Duda	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>

*“The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”*  
—Deuteronomy 31:8

---

---

 **COMING UP** *at Reformation...*



**Wednesday, Dec. 22**

1:00 p.m.—Bible Study

**Friday, Dec. 24**

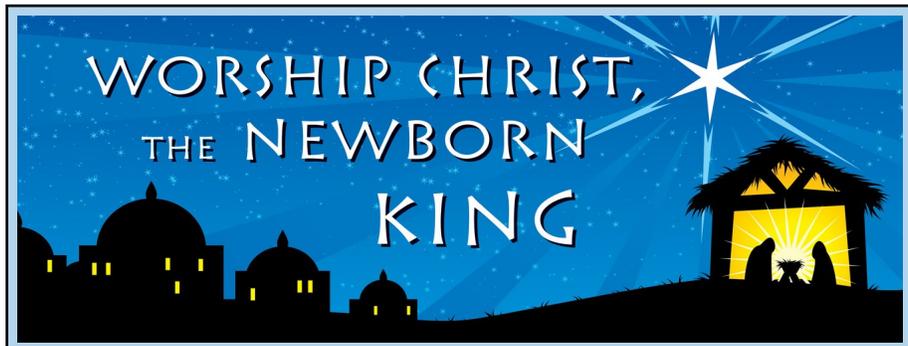
**CHILDCARE & PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

**5:00 p.m.** —Family Christmas Eve Service

**7:00 p.m.**—Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

**Saturday, Dec. 25**

**CHRIST IS BORN! ALLELUIA!**



**Sunday, Dec. 26**

*Guest Preacher, Pastor David Gunderlach*

**8:30 a.m.**—In-person **WORSHIP**

**9:30 a.m.**—Choir Rehearsal

**10:00 a.m.**—**ZOOM Service** (see note below)

**11:00 a.m.**—In-person **WORSHIP**

**1:00 p.m.**— **Service on the Web**

**Monday, Dec. 27**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MICHELE ISAACSON**  
**PARISH OFFICE & CHILDCARE CLOSED**

**Wednesday, Dec. 29**

1:00 p.m.—Bible Study

**Friday, Dec. 31**

**PARISH OFFICE & CHILDCARE CLOSED**

**ZOOM WORSHIP CHANGES FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26th**  
Jerry Plassman will be hosting the ZOOM service at 10:00 a.m.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CONNECT TO JERRY'S ZOOM WORSHIP**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8528723215?pwd=d0pZL1pVM2g0bXlhMVJ3ZVVjakRYdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 852 872 3215

**Passcode:** 302821

---



## Poinsettia Dedications

**Judith Amdal**—In memory of husband, Norman, and brother, Richard

**Karen Bowman**—In memory of her sister and parents

**Janice Bunting**—In memory of Irmgard Kershner and Bill Oshel

**Dorothea Cloud-Gary**—To the Glory of God

**George Duda**—To the Glory of God

**Jenny Farrants**—In memory of loved ones

**Joyce and David Gunderlach**—In memory of parents and in honor of children

**Naomi and Bryce Kepley** —Wreaths and poinsettias donated for the Grace of God

**Barbara Kindler**—In memory of her husband

**Hilde Lutterloh**—To the Glory of God

**Patti Mantey**—In memory of her father and in honor of her mother

**Jerry Plassman**—In memory of his sister, Joyce

**John and Ann Race**—To the Glory of God

**Shirley Spencer** —In honor of the 40th wedding anniversary  
of son, Robert, and his wife

*The Chrismon tree was donated in memory of  
Jesse and Irmgard Kershner.*

