

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

THEME: God empowers us, through the Holy Spirit, to live a new life.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

WE CONFESS AND RECEIVE THE NEW SELF

P: In Ephesians 4 we are asked by God to put off our “old ways of living”. It is a hardened heart that keeps us from putting off those old ways. Before we hear of the new life God promises, we begin our Worship this year by confessing what our old ways are.

Silence for Reflection

P: We confess.....

C: We confess that by nature we are set to commit sin that is both harmful to our relationship with You and to others. You ask us to put away falsehood.....and we still fail to speak the truth. You ask that our anger not lead into sin.....we confess that it has and has caused much pain. You ask us to use word that only build others up.....we instead have chosen words that have torn others down. Give us the forgiveness we need and the Holy Spirit to put on the new self.

P: “If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us of our sins.” Receive the new self that God promises through the forgiveness of sins. God is merciful and gracious. As a servant of the great Shepherd Jesus and by his command, I forgive you all of your sins—in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE “Red Song Book” 172 Praise to the Lord vs. 1 and 4 only

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him for he is thy health and salvation;
All ye who hear, Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration.*

*Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the amen Sound from his people a gain:
Gladly for ever adore him.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray.....

C: Almighty God, draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours. Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

HEARING FROM GOD'S WORD

[Old Testament Reading: 1 Kings 3:4-15](#)

Solomon asks the Lord for a mind to discern between good and evil

And the 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. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And 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. And 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. And 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. Give 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?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And 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, behold, 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. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

And 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.

[New Testament Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14](#)

In Christ, God made known the mystery of His will

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

In 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, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In 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, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

[CHOIR ANTHEM](#)

["Behold That Star"](#)

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 40-52

And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but 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, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And 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." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And 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.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG "Green Book" 424 vs. 1, 2 and 5 only Lord of Glory

*Lord of glory, you have bought us
With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil
With your own unsparing hand.*

*Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you
Gladly, freely of your own.
With the sunshine of our goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by you, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.*

*Lord of glory, you have bought us
With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly,
Hop, to stay our souls on you;
But, oh, best of all your graces,
With your love our love renew.*

SERMON "Having a Lifestyle"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF CONSECRATION

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“Red Book” #117 People Need The Lord

*Every day they pass me by, I can see it in their eye;
Empty people filled with care, headed who knows where.
On they go through private pain, living fear to fear.
Laughter hides the silent cries only Jesus hears.*

Refrain:

*People need the Lord. People need the Lord.
At the end of broken dreams He's the open door.
People need the Lord. People need the Lord.
When will we realize people need the Lord.*

*We are called to take His light to a world where wrong seems right;
What could be too great a cost for sharing life with one who's lost.
Through His love our hearts can feel all the grief they bear.
They must hear the words of life only we can share.*

Refrain:

*People need the Lord. People need the Lord.
At the end of broken dreams He's the open door.
People need the Lord. People need the Lord.
That we must give our live for people need the Lord.
People need the Lord.*

“Green Book” 460 I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus

*I am trusting you, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only you;
Trusting you for full salvation,
Free and true.*

*I am trusting you for pardon;
At your feet I bow,
For your grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.*

*I am trusting you for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting you to make me holy
By your blood.*

*I am trusting you to guide me;
You alone shall lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.*

*I am trusting you for power;
You can never fail.
Words which you yourself shall give me
Must prevail.*

*I am trusting you, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting you forever
And for all.*

A CLOSING BLESSING

CLOSING SONG "Green Book" 424 vs. 3,4, and 5 only Lord of Glory

*Wondrous honor you have given
To our humblest charity
In your own mysterious sentence,
"You have done it all to me."
Can it be, O gracious Master,
That you deign for alms to sue,
Saying by your poor and needy,
"Give as I have given to you"?*

*Yes, the sorrow and the sufferings
Which on every hand we view
Channels are for gifts and offerings
Due by solemn right to your;
Right of which we may not rob you,
Debt we may not choose to pay
Lest that face of love and pity
Turn from us another day.*

*Lord of glory, you have bought us
With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly,
Hop, to stay our souls on you;
But, oh, best of all your graces,
With your love our love renew.*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!