



Pilgrim
LUTHERAN
Church

Service of the Word

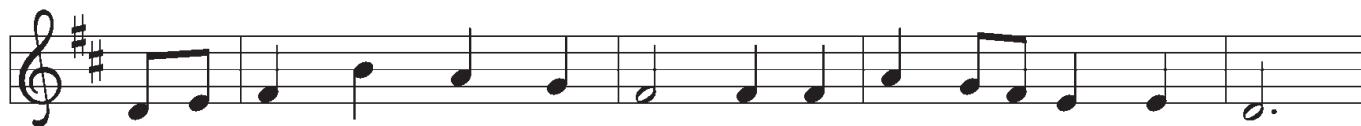


January 4, 2026
Second Sunday of Christmas

Welcome

Opening Hymn

O Word of God Incarnate



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 Oh, 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,
oh, teach your wand - 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: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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 self-examination.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage 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

The leader stands and addresses the congregation.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

The Sign of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.

Songs of Praise

The Love of Christ

How long how wide how deep how high
Is the love of Christ the love of Christ
How long how wide how deep how high
Is the love of Christ the love of Christ

Surpassing all knowledge
Granting pow'r with all the saints
Filling us filling us
And out of His riches
He establishes our peace
Filling us with the fullness of God

How long how wide how deep how high
Is the love of Christ the love of Christ
How long how wide how deep how high
Is the love of Christ the love of Christ

Surpassing all knowledge
Granting pow'r with all the saints
Filling us filling us
And out of His riches
He establishes our peace
Filling us with the fullness of God

How long how wide how deep how high
Is the love of Christ the love of Christ

Honor and Praise

Righteous and holy in all of Your ways
We come before You with honor and praise
Here to adore You for all of our days
We come before You with honor and praise

Lord of the heavens how faithful You are
Shine down upon us oh Bright Morning Star
Righteous and holy in all of Your ways
We come before You with honor and praise

Filling the temple the work of Your grace
We come before You with honor and praise
Here to adore You for all of our days
We come before You with honor and praise

Lord of the heavens how faithful You are
Rise in our spirits oh Bright Morning Star
Righteous and holy in all of Your ways
We come before You with honor and praise

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray...
Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever
Amen.

First Reading

1 Kings 3

4 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. 5 At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." 6 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. 7 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. 8 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. 9 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?"

10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 11 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, 12 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. 13 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. 14 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."

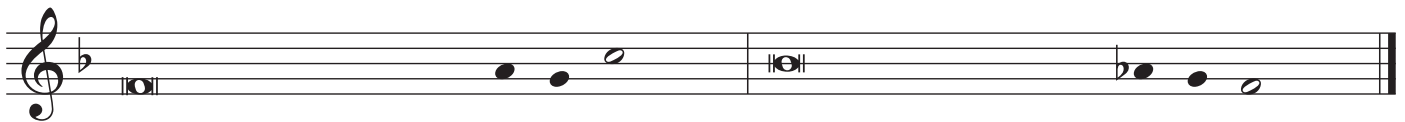
15 And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

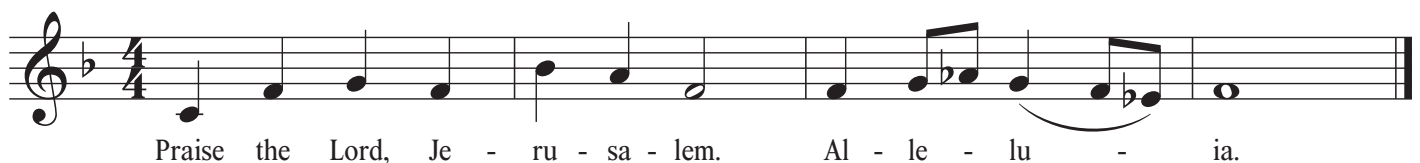
Psalm

Psalm 147

Tone



Refrain



Refrain: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. Alleluia.

12 Worship the Lord, • O Jerusalem;
praise your • God, O Zion,

**13 who has strengthened the bars • of your gates
and has blessed your chil- • dren within you.**

14 God has established peace • on your borders
and satisfies you with the • finest wheat.

**15 God sends out a command • to the earth,
a word that runs • very swiftly.**

Refrain: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. Alleluia.

16 God gives • snow like wool,
scattering • frost like ashes.

**17 God scatters • hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand a- • gainst God's cold?**

18 The Lord sends forth the • word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the • waters flow.

**19 God declares the • word to Jacob,
statutes and judg- • ments to Israel.**

20 The Lord has not done so to any • other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. • Hallelujah!

Refrain: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. Alleluia.

**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.**

Refrain: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. Alleluia.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1

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

11 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, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 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, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Gemma Rodriguez

Gospel Acclamation

Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the second chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

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

The Boy Jesus in the Temple

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 44 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, 45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 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." 49 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51 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. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Elder Joseph Perling

Confession of Faith

Nicene' Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Following each prayer petition:

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Offering

Create in Me

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, often with a steady bass line. The lyrics are: '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 your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.'

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 your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Blessing

Closing Hymn

In Thee is Gladness



1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
2 Since He is ours, _____ We fear no pow - ers, Not of
sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -
heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where - fore the
wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -
sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -
cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for
pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing
glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him
To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

*Please use the basket in the Narthex to dispose of your used
Holy Communion Cups as you leave the Sanctuary*

Unto the King

Now unto the King eternal
Unto the King immortal
Unto the King invisible
The only wise God
The only wise God

Oh unto the King be glory and honor
Unto the King forever
Unto the King be glory and honor
Forever and ever amen
Amen

Now unto the King eternal
Unto the King immortal
Unto the King invisible
The only wise God
The only wise God

Oh unto the King be glory and honor
Unto the King forever
Unto the King be glory and honor
Forever and ever amen
Amen
Amen
Amen

Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes

Serving at Worship Today

Preaching & Presiding

Elder Joseph Perling

Director of Music

Mary Harper

Upcoming Events



Learn more about all upcoming events at pilgrimsm.org/calendar

Putting Christmas to Rest (Until Next Year!)

Saturday, January 10th at 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Help with taking down the Christmas decorations

Pilgrim Giving



Your faithful financial stewardship is as important as ever. We will be creating cards with QR code to access online giving.

Serve at Pilgrim



Interested in serving at Pilgrim? Scan the QR code or go to <https://pilgrims.org/serve-at-divine-service/> to complete an information form. We will contact you when trainings are scheduled for various service opportunities.

Bible App



Scan this QR code to download a Bible app and access scripture, devotionals, and more right from your phone!



Pilgrim
LUTHERAN
Church

Called by the Holy Spirit,
**we are an intergenerational community of
worship and service**
that invites the people of
Santa Monica and beyond
**to flourish in the love of Jesus Christ
through Word and Sacraments.**

Rev. Lew Upchurch

Interim Pastor

Lew.Upchurch@pilgrims.org
(949) 933-3595

Mary Harper

Director of Music

Mary.Harper@pilgrims.org

Mathew Mulligan

Media Ministry

Mathew.Mulligan@pilgrims.org

office@pilgrims.org | 310.829.4113 | pilgrims.org
1730 Wilshire Boulevard Santa Monica, CA 90403