



## **CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS**

Free from the Guardian

Sunday, January 1, 2023

### **AS WE GATHER**

A new year begins! Yet, often so little changes. For most, a new year means little difference regarding life, vocation, house, and home. Outside of annually changing one number on our calendar, much of life remains the same, including the daily battles we face against Satan, sin, and our own flesh. With that, we rejoice today not just in the year's changing, but a daily changing we recognize every day as we live in this world through the blameless One born for us. Christ was under and has fulfilled God's Law perfectly for us, even as an infant child brought to the temple for circumcision under Mosaic Law. It would mark both the promise of redemption and the burden of the Law—and with Jesus



marking the sacrifice that would set us free. Try as we might with new year's resolutions to become better people, we still find ourselves falling short of God's moral law that remains today. Rejoice in the newness that has come! More than a new year, we are given a new life, for Christ has fulfilled all and set us free! As we are marked in Baptism and bear Christ's name, we become inheritors of His promise. It is a newness to celebrate each day of every year!

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**Opening Hymn** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" *LSB 379*

### **Invocation**

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

### **Opening Sentences**

P: Christ, our Savior is born! **C: O come, let us adore Him!**

P: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

**C: O come, let us adore Him!**

P: The law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

**C: O come, let us adore Him!**

### **Confession and Absolution**

P: As we begin a new year in God's grace, we acknowledge and repent of our sinfulness and failure to keep His Law.

"Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."

**C: Lord, we confess to You our sins, those of which we know, and those of which we are unaware. We have not always viewed Your Law as a gift, but instead at times as a burden to obey. Though we desire to be free, we find ourselves enslaved and unable to help ourselves. Forgive us.**

P: "Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed."

**C: 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 Law and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.**

P: "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

### ☩ WORD ☩

**INTROIT** *Psalm 40:6–8; antiphon: v. 16*

P: In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear

**C: Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.**

P: Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

**C: I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."**

P: But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;

**C: may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"**

Hymn "A Great and Mighty Wonder" *LSB* 383

### Salutation

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading** *Numbers 6:22-27*

*(after the reading)...*

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

**Gradual** *Hebrews 8:10; 10:17*

P: This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel

**C: after those days, declares the Lord:**

P: I will put My laws into their minds,

**C: and write them on their hearts.**

P: I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

**C: I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.**

**Epistle** *Philippians 2:1-13*

*(after the reading)...*

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

L: Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

**Holy Gospel** *Luke 2:21*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** *(after the reading)...*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Children's Message and Celebrate Song** 🎵

**Hymn of the Day** "The Ancient Law Departs" LSB 898

**Sermon**

**Offering & Attendance/Involvement Cards**

**Offertory** "Now Thank We All Our God" LSB 895

**Nicene Creed**

**Prayer of the Church**

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Ever-present God, You are Lord of our past, our present, and our future. We know that all we need for this body and life and all we would ever need for the peace of our souls in the forgiveness of sins comes from You. For Your care in the past year and for Your gracious promises in this new year assured in Christ alone,

**C: we praise You, Lord.**

P: Ever-living God, we know that no matter the year or new beginnings, we are not strangers to Christ's words, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Be with the leaders of the nations, states, and local communities that wisdom be given for the justice and well-being of others. In times of tribulation, grant us Your peace. In times of trials, grant us a confident faith. In times of troubles,

remind us of Your living presence and draw us to Your Word and Means of Grace. For the gifts of grace You supply for our every need each year and each day,

**C: we praise You, Lord.**

P: Ever-compassionate God, for those who have needs known to us, [*including . . .*], and for those whose needs of body and soul are known only to You, we lift them up in prayer and commend them to Your ever-present care. Through trials and tribulations, suffering and struggles, set them free from their burdens and heal them according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Ever-gracious God, You so loved this world that You gave Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. In this continuing Christmas season and each day of this new year, continue to draw us to our Savior Jesus Christ, born for us, that we follow Him who would ultimately die for us, rising to victory and ascending to glory. As we do, equip and sustain us through Your Holy Spirit that we witness the truth of Your Word centered on our Savior to all whom You place in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: All-knowing God, though You are not bound by the limits of time, we are as we remain in this world and recognize another year's passing and another new beginning. Yet in Your divine wisdom, when the time was right, You sent Your Son into this world to be born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those under the Law that we be Your children, now and forever. Help us seek to live according to Your Law that we may remain faithful to Your truth according to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: In this new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**Preface** (*Sung to "O Come All Ye Faithful", LSB 379*)

P: May Jesus be with you!

**C: And with you, His servant**

P: Oh, come let us lift our hearts, unto the Lord!

**C: With hearts uplifted, thanks to Him we render:**

**With Joy we come before Him In gratefulness implore Him**

**With thankful hearts adore Him, evermore!**

### **Proper Preface**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, gracious Lord. You are the source of our life, the ruler of time, the giver of the good and wise Law, and the one who redeems us and sets Your people free. Grant continued faith for our journey through a new year as we live as Your beloved children, until the day we join with angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven who laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus** (*Sung to "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, LSB 380*)

**C: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord! God of hosts by all adored! Heav'n and earth cannot contain, all the glory of your name. Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh In the name of God the king! Hallelujahs glad we sing: Hail, Hosanna! Praises due, be forever, Lord, to You!**

### **The Words of Institution**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*Sung to "Away in a Manger" LSB 364*)

**C: Our Father in heaven, All praise to Your name!**

**Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same**

**By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone:**

**Oh hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;**

**As we forgive others, our sins take away;**

**In times of temptation, to lead us be near;**

**From evil deliver Your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign**

**And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.**

**To You be the glory, resounding again**

**From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

## **Distribution**

**Distribution Hymns** “Angels We Have Heard on High” *LSB* 368;  
“What Child Is This” *LSB* 370; “Away In a Manger” *LSB* 364

**Post-Communion** (*Sung to “From Heaven Above” LSB 358*)

**C: Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure  
And steadfast love fore’er endure!  
Our eyes have seen. Our ears have heard.  
And we have tasted of His Word.**

**As His own servants we depart  
With His salvation in our heart.  
His saving power He has made known  
Love to and through us now be shown.**

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Let us pray. . .one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**Benediction** (*Sung to “O Come All Ye Faithful” LSB 379*)

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. Look with love upon you,  
Be gracious and cause His face to shine with peace!

**C: Glory to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!  
The Savior close beside us,  
God’s love from harm to hide us,  
The Spirit’s pow’r to guide us, evermore!**

**Closing Hymn** “Joy to the World” *LSB* 387