

# Cross of Christ and Cannon River Lutheran Churches

*Faithful Through Generations*

January 3, 2021



Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Welcome and Announcements

**OPENING HYMN**      *"Go Tell It on the Mountain"*      (Verses 1 & 3)      **ELW#290**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy. **Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

L: God of goodness and lovingkindness, **we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

L: Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. **Amen.**

## **GREETING**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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**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.**

## **THE FIRST READING**

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**Jeremiah 31:7-14**

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the  
nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O Lord, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from  
the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest  
parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor,  
together;  
a great company, they shall return  
here.

<sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead  
them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall  
not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far  
away;  
say, “He who scattered Israel will

gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a  
flock.”

<sup>11</sup>For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands  
too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on  
the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the  
goodness of the Lord,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and  
the herd;

their life shall become like a watered  
garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice  
in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall  
be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them  
gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of  
fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with  
my bounty,  
says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **THE SECOND READING**

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

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, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL**

**John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

## SERMON

Deacon Todd Portinga

### HYMN OF THE DAY *“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”* (Verses 1 & 3) **ELW#510**

\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**)

\*The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

\*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.**

\*BENEDICTION: May God bless you and keep you. May God’s face shine on you and be gracious to you. May God look on you with favor and give you peace. **C: Amen.**

\*L: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**