**Sunday, December 29, 2024, 9:30 am**

**Prelude**

**\*Opening Words:**

Good friends, Rejoice!

The Lord has come

in love and power,

in grace and truth,

offering hope and peace.

This promised one,

mighty, though small,

is our hope, our strength, and our life.

Christ was born to save!

In hope, let us worship God!

**\*Opening Song:** **“Joy to the World”** (Lift Up Your Hearts #92)

**\*Call to Worship: Psalm 148** (Pastor Henry; responsive with the congregation on the bold)

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

**Praise him, all his angels;**

**praise him, all his host!**

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

**Praise him, you highest heavens,**

**and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**Praise the Lord from the earth,**

**you sea monsters and all deeps,**

**fire and hail, snow and frost,**

**stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

**Wild animals and all cattle,**

**creeping things and flying birds!**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all rulers of the earth!

**Young men and women alike,**

**old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for his name alone is exalted;

his glory is above earth and heaven.

**He has raised up a horn for his people,**

**praise for all his faithful,**

**for the people of Israel who are close to him.**

**Praise the Lord!**

**\*God’s Greeting** (Henry)

**\*Mutual Greeting** (Henry)

**\*Song: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”** LUYH 521

**Old Testament Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20** (Justin Bolt)

Our readings from the Old Testament and the Gospel, center our focus on learning in the temple—learning the way to live. As we hear the readings, hear first these words from the Colossians text that Pastor Henry will preach on: Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. [pause]

Hear the word of the Lord from 1 Samuel 2:

But Samuel was ministering before the Lord—a boy wearing a linen ephod. Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the Lord give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the Lord.” Then they would go home.

And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 2:41-52** (Kyleigh Rottman)

Hear the word of the Lord from Luke 2:

Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”

“Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Song: “As with Gladness Men of Old”** (Celebration Hymnal #290)

**Offering:** (Ministry Fund) (Pastor Henry)

**Song during offering: “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”** LUYH 747

**Prayers of the People** (Tom Mac Williams)

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Bible Reading:** Colossians 3:1-17 (Tom Mac Williams)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Sermon:** A New Year’s Wardrobe Update (Pastor Henry)

**Prayer of Application** (Pastor Henry)

**\*Song of Response: “Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God”** LUYH 746 stanzas 1-2

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Let us confess our sins to God. Together we say:

**God of love,**

**all year long we pursue power and money,**

**yet you come in weakness.**

**All season long we covet so many things,**

**when you alone offer what is lasting.**

**Through the work of this Lord Jesus,**

**who comes to us full of grace and truth,**

**forgive us,**

**heal us,**

**correct us.**

**Then open our lips,**

**that we may sing your praise with the angels,**

**and remake our lives,**

**that we may witness to your transforming love.**

**Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Song of Response: “Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God”** LUYH 746 stanza 3

**\*Words of Assurance:** Hear these words of assurance from Titus 3:

When the goodness and loving kindness

of God our Savior appeared,

he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness

that we had done, but according to his mercy,

through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. [pour water into the font]

This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

so that, having been justified by his grace,

we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

So, people of God,

clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,

humility, gentleness and patience.

Bear with each other and forgive one another

if any of you has a grievance against someone.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

And over all these virtues put on love,

which binds them all together in perfect unity.

**\*God's Blessing** (Pastor Henry)

**\*Closing Song: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”** LUYH 88

**Postlude**